

## House to hold first session Sunday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House Speaker of Parliament Taher Al Masri announced Tuesday that the House would hold its first working session Sunday during which it is expected to elect permanent committees to deal with financial, judicial, administrative, and foreign affairs. Mr. Masri, speaking after his election as speaker following the opening of the 12th Parliament by His Majesty King Hussein (see story below), said other committees to deal with issues such as education, tourism etc. could be set up if the House members felt they were necessary. A temporary committee charged with drafting a reply to the King's speech from the Throne will meet in the interim to complete its talks, perhaps before the full House meets Sunday.

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## Russian-Jordan meeting concludes

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday expressed hope that the Jordanian-Russian meetings held last week would bear fruits to include all domains of cooperation. Prince Hassan also voiced hope that all agreements and protocols signed between the two sides will be fully implemented. He said that the objective of banking cooperation and cooperation between businessmen is common investment in export-oriented projects. In the final statement issued at the end of the Jordan-Russian meeting, six protocols were signed between the two countries to enhance cooperation and called for a joint governmental committee to enhance economic, scientific and technical development. Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Chornikov left Amman Tuesday taking a letter from His Majesty King Hussein to Russian President Boris Yeltsin in answer to the message the King received from the Russian president.

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# King opens Parliament with call for support of peace

Full peace impossible without Jerusalem • Arab League Charter needs change • Government committed to fostering democracy, administrative reforms, economic progress and services

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday opened the 12th Parliament with a call on the lawmakers to strongly support Jordan's quest for a negotiated settlement with Israel and to exert collective efforts to make a success of the Kingdom's democratisation.

The King, addressing a joint session of the appointed 40-member Upper House (Senate) and the 80-member Lower House elected on Nov. 8, outlined the government's political and economic programmes on the external and internal fronts.

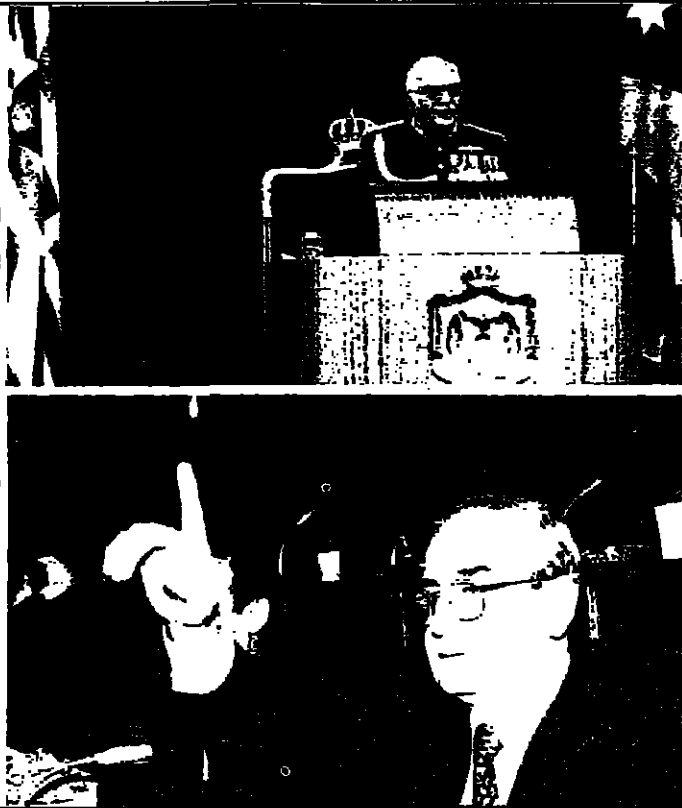
Wearing the traditional black and gold embroidered military uniform, the King told the lawmakers in his speech from the Throne: "The issue of peace has entered a new stage requiring us to take a strong stand stemming from our national unity, from our constant positions rooted in international legitimacy and from our unwavering determination to achieve a just, durable and honourable peace."

"Such peace would be based on the restoration of all our rights, would guarantee the legitimate rights of our Palestinian brethren on their national soil and would provide security and peace to all the states and people in our region," said the King in his one-hour speech.

The address followed a colourful military ceremony at the domed Parliament House in the heart of the capital



Scenes from Tuesday opening of the 12th Jordanian Parliament by His Majesty King Hussein (photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)



with a guard of honour as 21 guns boomed out a traditional salute to the Monarch.

The King reiterated Jordan's support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Sept. 13 accord it signed with Israel "through its own free choice ... thus bearing a historic responsibility."

Noting that Jordan delayed its own agenda with Israel until after the PLO signed its own accord with the Jewish

state, the King said the Kingdom was taking "foolproof, wisely-regulated steps" towards a peace settlement "confident in the ability of our government, of your assembly, and of our courageous people to face the challenges of the future negotiating phase."

But, the King warned, a "just and comprehensive peace will not be realised and completed until Jerusalem becomes the city of peace."

The Monarch, a descendant of the Prophet Mohammad, vowed that "we will recognise no sovereignty over (Jerusalem) except that of Almighty God," and renewed his call for a "non-political" pan-Arab body representing all the seven sects of Islam to supervise the holy shrines in Jerusalem.

"We pledge our support to this body with all the means at our disposal and we pledge not to cede or give up our religious and historical responsibilities in Jerusalem and towards Al Aqsa and Islamic holy places in Palestine," said the King.

The King called for a dialogue among Muslims,

Christians and Jews to work out a formula to address the three faith's concerns over their links to Jerusalem.

The Monarch said the government remained committed to settling inter-Arab differences. "Our faith in the unity of this (Arab) Nation and in future generations requires us to seek to revive mutual confidence among Arab brethren, to transcend the obstacles and shortcomings which have beset the

course of Arab solidarity, to renounce quarrels and disagreements and to reinstate amity and mutual understanding," the King said.

The King also called for amendments to the charter of the Arab League saying the changes were needed to "achieve a greater measure of cooperation and coordination among all Arab States."

Addressing the assembly of mostly conservative, pro-establishment politicians and

tribal leaders who won the Kingdom's first multi-party elections since 1956, the King called for collective efforts "to make our democratic system a model acceptable to our (Arab) Nation and regarded by as a source of inspiration."

On the government's internal policies, the King reaffirmed continued support for the Armed Forces, "our country's shield and security and ... a source of pride and admiration to us all."

The Monarch pledged that the government would continue its moves to replace outdated legislation and administrative reforms while upholding total respect for the judiciary as an independent authority.

Paying tribute to "most newspapers" for adhering to the new Press and Publication Law, the King said the government information media, including television, would seek to further extend its coverage to Europe and the Americas.

The government will also seek to expand postal and communication services and to offer them to rural regions and will also upgrade and modernise education.

The government has also made major strides in addressing the economic problems of Jordan, the King said, referring to reduced budget deficits and increased local revenues, success in rescheduling foreign debts and restructuring the Kingdom's monetary policies over the past four years (see story below).

See page 4 for full text of the King's Speech from the Throne

## Majali weighs his options on Cabinet and confidence vote

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — While recent indications were that Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali would only introduce a minimum reshuffle to his cabinet before seeking the confidence of the 80-member Lower House of Parliament, official sources now say that Dr. Majali might still resign and be reappointed to head a new government that would take into account the different political trends in Parliament.

According to well-informed sources, Dr. Majali is assured of retaining his post as prime minister but has the choice of either making a limited reshuffle of his government, which would exclude parliamentarians, or from a government that would try to gain the confidence of the different parliamentary blocs of the House by meeting some of their demands or including some of them.

The government is constitutionally required to ask the House for a vote of confidence no later than 30 days after the House convenes.

Dr. Majali, according to

parliamentarians, will have to use the time left to him to improve his standing with deputies in the House who have already pledged that the Majali government will not find the task of gaining the House's confidence an easy one.

Several measures adopted by this government, especially the introduction of the controversial one-person, one-vote formula in the elections, placed it headlong against political parties, especially the Islamic Action Front (IAF), which charges that it had been targeted by the amendment to the Election Law.

The premier, according to the sources, will also be considering whether to seek the confidence of the House based on His Majesty King Hussein's Speech from the Throne or formulate a separate government policy statement.

Official sources say that the premier is leaning closer to forming a new government with prominent political personalities, who, if not actually members of the House, have enough credibility with the parliamentary blocs to secure him a vote of confidence.

The Islamic Action Front bloc (16-18 members) is the only parliamentary bloc that has so far publicly declared that it will not give Dr. Majali's cabinet a vote of confidence because of its pro-Middle East peace policy.

Other parliamentary blocs, according to the sources, have placed conditions on their final decision to grant or deny confidence, including a demand for a substantive change in the government especially in the senior ministerial posts of information and foreign affairs.

The majority of the new deputies, according to observers, will not challenge the government's policy on the peace process and the Kingdom's commitment to International Monetary Fund (IMF)-sponsored economic adjustment programme. But observers expect the new House to press the government hard on "bread and butter" issues which dominated the election campaign.

It is expected that most deputies will expect the government to seriously address

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## Cabinet endorses JD 1.5b budget

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Council of Ministers Tuesday approved a nearly JD1.5 billion budget for fiscal year 1994 envisaging a repeat performance of domestic revenues covering not only current expenditures but also part of capital expenditures, officials said.

The Cabinet, meeting shortly before His Majesty King Hussein opened the 12th Parliament, reviewed the budget and endorsed it unanimously ahead of presenting it to the legislature for approval next month, the officials said.

No details were available, but one official said the budget figures "represented a continuation of Jordan's success in addressing not only all current expenditures but also part of capital expenditures as the case is for the year 1993."

Fiscal 1992 was the first time in Jordan's history that domestic revenues covered current expenditures and part of capital expenditures.

Figures released by the Central Bank of Jordan for the first six months of 1993 showed that the budget was

performing well in terms of expected local revenues and current expenditures.

Total domestic revenues until June 30 were JD584 million in addition to JD33 million in external aid and JD21 million in repaid loans, while current expenditures amounted to JD512 million and capital expenditures were about JD101 million.

The 1994 budget reflects an overall increase of over JD200 million from the JD1.28 billion budget for 1993, but no figure was available on the actual deficit before financing.

The official, who declined to be identified, said the deficit was "definitely more than the eight per cent before financing for the year 1993" as a result of higher allocations for infrastructure spending and services.

Noted economist and columnist Fahed Fawak said the external aid to Jordan was "nominal" during the current fiscal year, but projections for 1994 were higher.

As such, he said, external aid should be able to cover the deficit.

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## Masri elected House speaker with more than 70% of votes

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Former Prime Minister Taher Al Masri Tuesday became the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament after defeating Islamic Action Front (IAF) candidate Abdullah Al Akaleh.

Mr. Masri achieved his landslide victory at a first round of secret balloting, scoring 57 votes compared to the 22 votes that Dr. Akaleh received. One ballot was empty.

The IAF 18-member bloc suffered a second defeat when its candidate for assistant speaker Mohammad Al Haj lost his bid to Deputy Samih Al Farah at a second round of balloting. Mr. Taha Hababbeh became first assistant speaker after winning 35 votes at the first round of balloting while Mr. Farah

and Dr. Haj tied, with each scoring 30 votes.

Mr. Farah won 41 votes compared to the 38 votes that Dr. Haj received at the second round of balloting. Both Mr. Hababbeh and Mr. Farah are close to Al Ahd Party which is headed by Deputy Abdul Hadi Al Majali.

Independent Islamist Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat won his bid for the first deputy speaker at a second round of balloting when he defeated Deputy Hashem Al Dabbas with a margin of nine votes, winning 44 votes.

Three candidates had originally contested the position but the deputies went into a second round of balloting when neither of the contenders achieved the absolute majority required by the internal regulations of the House.

Former Minister of Health Mohammad Adoub Al Zaben went out of the race when he came third with 20 votes, trailing Mr. Dabbas with three votes and Mr. Tubeishat with 16.

Deputy Abed Mousa Naher was uncontested in his bid for the position of second deputy speaker.

"I promise you to lead, with your help, the serious march of your House... to emphasise the importance of this position which has (great) responsibilities and role in the Jordanian political system," Mr. Masri told deputies after taking the chairmanship of the House's session from Abdul Baqi Jammo, who chaired the meeting as the oldest deputy before the election of the speaker.

(Continued on page 5)

## Senate holds hasty session

By Suhair Obeidat  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The newly-appointed Upper House of Parliament (Senate) held its first session Tuesday and hastily went through some of the items on its agenda and adjourned to allow the Lower House to convene and elect a speaker.

During the 25-minute session, Parliament Secretary General Saleh Zo'bi read out the Royal Decrees calling on the Senate to convene, naming its members and appointing Ahmad Lawzi as speaker. Then, the 40 senators were called out by name and each was asked to take the following oath: "I swear by God Almighty to be faithful to the King and uphold the Constitution and serve the nation and carry out the duties delegated to me to the best of my ability."

A three-member committee, comprising of Ahmad

Obeidat, Kamel Sharif and Nasser Al Assad, was elected by acclamation to prepare a reply to His Majesty King Hussein's speech from the Throne, opening the 12th Parliament.

Other issues on the agenda, which include the election of the speaker's deputies, were deferred to another session to be called for later.

Mr. Lawzi delivered a speech in which he pledged the support of the Senate for the Lower House and expressed hope that the two Houses would shoulder their responsibilities in the fields of legislation, forming and enhancing political pluralism and respect opinion.

He also expressed his confidence that the Upper House "will spare no effort in consulting and cooperating with the government according to the principles of our Constitution which guarantees the harmony governing the relationship between the leg-

islative and administrative authorities..."

Mr. Lawzi, speaker of the Senate since 1984, said that Jordanian people had lived up to the expectations in the parliamentary elections, which King Hussein decided to hold on time, "despite the radical changes and accelerating events in the region."

"The positive atmosphere which prevailed (during the Nov. 8 elections) has won our country more appreciation and enhanced its image both on the Arab and international levels," Mr. Lawzi said. He added that the democratisation process "is becoming a way of life for our people aspiring to the enhancement of civil society, the respect of human rights and political pluralism."

He said the coming four years — which is the term of the 12th Parliament

(Continued on page 3)

## Lower House can now boast of five distinct blocs

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In addition to the three parliamentary blocs formed last week, a fourth coalition of independent deputies was announced Monday, only one day before the opening of the Lower House of Parliament. With the Islamic Action Front (IAF) parliamentary bloc, the new house encompasses five different blocs that include 69 deputies.

The new bloc, presently known as the Independent Bloc, groups six deputies,

two of whom are Muslim Brotherhood members who ran independently from the IAF and were earlier expected to rejoin the front's ranks.

Their Abdullah (Amman First District) and Abdul Majid Al Aqtash (Amman Sixth District) ran in the elections independently since they were not nominated by the front as its representatives.

On many occasions before and after the elections, IAF leaders emphasised that they did not rule out the possibility of reintegrating the two deputies into the party's ranks, leaving the door open

for future reconciliation.

The two deputies, who seem to have been at odds with their colleagues at the front, sought other options, they said in a recent interview.

The new bloc, the smallest in Parliament, includes three other independent Islamists — former ministers Jamal Saraireh (Karak) and Abdul Razzaq Tubeishat (Irbid), Awad Khleifat (Ma'an) — and Mahmoud Huweimeh (Karak).

The three blocs formed last week after intensive consultations held directly after the outcome of the elections was

announced Nov. 9 are: the Progressive Democratic Alliance (PDC), formed on Sunday, which includes 22 leftist, centrist and nationalist

deputies, and is believed to have been formed to support the nomination of Deputy Taher Al Masri as the House speaker; the Jordanian National Front (JNF), which includes eight deputies who belong to four parties — Al Yakatha, Al Watan, the Jordan National Alliance and the Party for Progress and Justice. (JNF has named Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh as president and Mohammad

Thoubeh as rapporteur); and the National Action Front (NAF), which groups 17 members and is led by Al Ahd Party Secretary General Abdul Hadi Al Majali. The group originally included 18 deputies but Munir Sobar Monday withdrew and decided to join the PDC.

The IAF bloc still maintains its 16 deputies but lost the chance of bringing into its ranks the two former members in addition to four other independents, including independent Islamist Abdul Baqi Gammo who joined the NAF's ranks.







## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Crown Prince addresses scientific conference

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday attended part of the Fourth International Conference on Parasitic and Zoonotic Diseases organised by the Higher Council of Science and Technology, in cooperation with the University of Jordan and the Social Development Centre for Research in Canada. In his speech, Prince Hassan pointed to the importance of scientific research, especially those concerning human beings and their living conditions.

### Ministry to create Forensic Department

AMMAN (Petra) — The Health Ministry Tuesday announced that it will create a department of Forensic Medicine at the ministry's National Health Centre. It said that the department will include clinics and a morgue.

### 4 Arab researchers start training seminar

IUTA (Petra) — Sixty researchers from Jordan and other Arab countries Tuesday gathered at Iuta for a two-day seminar on training Arab researchers and utilising their skills to promote services and production in the Arab world. The organisers said that the participants will discuss papers at Iuta and the Royal Scientific Society in Amman.

### Cement dust monitoring agreement signed

QABA (Petra) — The Jordan Cement Factors Company (JCFC) Tuesday signed a contract with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) by which the RSS will control and measure the amount of cement dust falling off during the container loading process from shore to ship. The agreement also provides for a similar check on the

cement station in the harbour in order to monitor falling dust and pollution there. A company spokesman said that the JCFC and the RSS were coordinating efforts with the Jordan Ports Corporation to protect the environment in and around the port city.

### Russian team arrives for business talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A team of businessmen, experts and technicians from the Russian Federation are currently on a visit to Jordan as part of a tour of several nations in the region to help promote the sale of their country's products in the Jordanian markets. The team plans visits to Jordanian factories to discuss joint ventures including the manufacture of car and motorcycle engines. Some member of the delegation will discuss the organisation of a car rally passing through Europe, the Middle East and Africa, a distance of 20,000 kilometres.

### Family planning workshop to start in Mafraq

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Family Planning Society plans a joint workshop in Mafraq on Nov. 27 in cooperation with the Princess Basma Social Development Centre in Mafraq City. A society spokesman said that the workshop will focus on maternal and infant health and the role of communications in conveying the concept of family planning to the local communities. He said that the four-day meeting will be attended by 20 women who will also discuss such issues as birth-spacing and health problems facing mothers and children.

### Grazing management workshop begins Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — The International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) is organising a workshop in Amman on Sunday entitled "Grazing Management." Representatives from Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Cyprus, and Turkey will take part in the three-day meetings which will focus on the development of pasture lands in the Western Asia region.

## Officials deny aviation agreement with Israel

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and Israeli aviation authorities have reviewed the use of each other's airspace as part of a broader accord on regional cooperation in the field, but such discussions have not entered a stage of any agreement, senior official sources said Tuesday.

The sources rejected Israeli reports that the two sides had reached an accord and said any comprehensive agreement on cooperation on civil aviation affairs would have to await a formal peace treaty.

"There were some preliminary discussions, but we are far from reaching some of the core issues, let alone nearing any agreement," said a senior official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"There are a host of political issues that need to be sorted out before we get into the nitty-gritty details of an aviation accord."

Under international civil aviation charters, no country can deny the use of its airspace to another unless the countries involved are in a state of war or under a stage of national emergency.

Jordan and Israel, although engaged in peace talks since October 1991, are technically still in a state of war. Furthermore, Arab League resolutions and the Arab boycott of Israel prevent any Arab country from allowing Israeli use of its airspace.

"Any decision to allow Israel to use Jordanian airspace has to come as part of a

broader Arab decision to lift the ban on allowing Israel to use Arab airspace," said another official. "It is not a simple decision between Jordan and Israel."

The official, who also preferred anonymity, pointed out however, that technically there is no Arab decision against using Israeli airspace and as such there is nothing to stop Jordan from doing so if the Kingdom chooses.

"But will not describe Jordan as too anxious to jump at such a decision," the official added.

According to Israeli reports, the Jewish state is ready to allow Royal Jordanian, the Kingdom's national carrier, to use Israeli airspace even without a simultaneous Jordanian agreement to allow El Al, the

Israeli airline, to overfly Jordan.

Jordanian officials saw the reports as a sign of Israel's anxiety to bring about as much normality as possible to its relations with Arab states even before comprehensive peace agreements are signed. They said it was similar to the Israeli move to unilaterally open telephone links with Arab countries despite opposition from the Arabs.

The officials conceded that using Israeli airspace for west-bound RJ planes could cut an average of 40 minutes of flight time, which means savings in fuel and other related costs.

On the other hand, Israel could cut considerable flight time for its eastward planes if they were allowed to use Jordanian airspace, as well as

the airspace of some of the Gulf states.

"Now the Israeli planes have to go up all the way to Turkey and cross into Central Asian airspace and come down to their destinations in India, China and Japan," said one of the officials.

The officials also dismissed as unfounded an Israeli claim that El Al had already signed an "agency agreement" with Jordanian travel agent (s) for the flights the airline purportedly plans to operate to Jordan.

"From what we understand, there were some agents who had a chance to meet with some El Al officials, and the next they themselves heard was the report of an agreement which they knew nothing about," said the official.

## 50 political activists contest Nov. 8 elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of 50 political activists, Parliament members and candidates in the 12th parliamentary elections Tuesday circulated a statement protesting against what they alleged unfair and non-free parliamentary elections held on Nov. 8, demanding that those responsible be held accountable for their actions.

The statement, bearing the 50 signatures, accused the present government of taking certain measures in order to consolidate its hold over the Lower House of Parliament and pave the way for the implementation of policies which, they said, ran in harmony with the U.S.-Israeli plans related to the Arab-Zionist conflict and in conformity with the dictates of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The signatories, the majority of who affiliated to the Islamic Action Front (IAF), the Jordanian Community Party, the Jordanian Democratic People's Party, the Jordan Socialist Arab Baath Party, the Jordan Democratic People's Party (Hashd) and the Jordan Democratic Arab Party, accused the government of

going back on the march towards Democracy by undertaking certain negative measures.

Following the dissolution of the 11th Parliament without any legal justifications, the one-person, one-vote election system was introduced, the statement said. This undemocratic system, which aims at achieving certain objectives, led to the dismemberment of the Jordanian society and caused rifts within the people's unity, giving cause to the re-emergence of sectarian and factional jingoism and creating dangerous situations, alleged the statement.

Furthermore, the government, and in a move reminiscent of the martial law mandate, resorted to transferring employees from their places of living and work, barred candidates from exercising their legal rights of conducting election campaigns and exploited the official media and security services which exercised pressure on the public in a bid to influence their voting trends. Finally, the government resorted to open rigging of the election results, the statement said.

We have hundreds of pieces of documented evidence that expose the manipulation and violation of laws which occurred during the last elections and which clearly expose the fact that the elections were neither free nor fair or democratic in any form, continued the statement.

This fact, the statement added, is now known to the people from Ramtha, in the north, to Aqaba, in the south.

In order to place all the facts before the public, said the statement, the signatories will soon publish what they claim to be the complete file of rigging and forging that have occurred.

It said that the political parties and various personalities representing the different ideologies in the country preserve their political and legal right to pursue efforts in scrutinising the violations that were committed against the Jordanian people, including the resort to the judiciary.

The statement said that the signatories were demanding the following:

— The creation of a trusted parliamentary committee to

conduct investigations into the election process. The committee should have access to various districts to hear the views of different people protesting and contesting the elections results. This committee should publish its neutral findings and conclusions, make recommendations to the present Parliament and eventually remove all traces of the illegal practices.

— Holding the government which supervised the elections responsible for its behaviour since it was to be considered responsible for all the violations and excesses.

— The cancellation of the temporary Elections Law and organising free, fair and democratic elections to be based on the strength of a new democratic law that would be in harmony and in conformity with the Jordanian society and its interests. Elections should be held under the supervision of the judiciary authority and not the Interior Ministry.

Furthermore, the statement appealed to the Jordanian people to join forces and stand firm against deals with the Zionist enemy, in view of the serious dangers facing our

national and sacred causes in the wake of the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agenda.

It also appealed to the people to defend democracy and freedom, to join forces with the national Jordanian parties and opposition groups and support their aforementioned demands so that they can ensure the return of political stability to the country and overcome the results of the elections results with united ranks so that national unity can be further enhanced.

It said that the struggle must continue to ensure freedom, citizens' dignity, improve people's standard of living and defend the Arab identity of Palestine and Jerusalem and fully restore the Palestinian people's historic rights.

It said that this course of action is needed in order to confront the dangers of normalising Arab relations with Israel and other colonial plans in the Arab region on the economic, cultural and social plans.

The statement said that the signatories would continue to hold meetings in order to safeguard the national objectives and the nation's dignity.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of pottery by Hazim Al Za'bi at the Jordan Crafts Centre (Al Aydi) — Jabal Amman, Second Circle (9:00-13:00 and 15:00-18:00).

Exhibition of Arabic calligraphy at the Student Affairs Deanship at the University of Jordan.

Graphic exhibition by Syrian artist Sa'd Haffjo at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Iranian trade exhibit (includes industrial and agricultural machinery, construction materials, vehicles, foodstuff, cosmetics, and carpets) at the Exhibition Hall on the University Road (10:00-13:00 and 15:00-20:00).

Art exhibition by plastic artist Hanaan Al Dasouqi at the student multi-purpose building at the University of Jordan.

Art exhibition by plastic artist Anwar Hadadin at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Art exhibition entitled "Mirage" by artist Alia' Al Shanti at Ab'ad Art Gallery — Mecca Street.

Exhibition of lithographs by a number of artists at the French Cultural Centre.

Exhibition of coins at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

Art exhibition by artist Hammoud Shantout

at Baladna Art Gallery (Gardens Street).

Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Rakan Dabbab at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

Art exhibition by a number of artists at the Student Affairs Deanship Building at the University of Jordan.

Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Ammar Khammash at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shomani Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing, the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

### SPORTS ROUND-UP

A one-hour programme featuring a condensation of the most popular games of the week with play-by-play announcement at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m.

### FILMS AND DRAMAS

Feature film entitled "A Tale of Two Cities" — part 2 at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

Drama entitled "The Naked Man" at Samir Al Rifai Auditorium at the University of Jordan at 3:00 p.m.

### LECTURES

Lecture in English entitled "Spiritual Qualities Within Architecture" — (example in Islamic and eastern societies with slides) by Gerhard Meighorner at the Goethe-Institut at 7:00 p.m.

## Majali weighs his options

(Continued from page 1)

uses such as unemployment, poverty, services and her direct needs of the people before they give the government a vote of confidence.

The government, according to parliamentary sources, will be required to show special commitment to democratic progress in the Kingdom. The source said that the government would be pressed to juggle ministers in its new lineup who "appear democratic."

Dr. Majali has also been under pressure from some parliamentarians to include parties in his government. It official sources said that the premier opted to juggle deputies in his government depended largely on

the credibility of the parliamentary blocs within the House and their ability to deliver.

The sources say that the premier was encouraged by the formation of defined parliamentary blocs with which he could negotiate the confidence vote and the inclusion of deputies in the new cabinet.

But that it was not clear yet whether these blocs would fragment over the issue of who would be chosen for ministerial posts.

A compromise solution, most sources agree, would be to introduce cabinet ministers who are close to the different parliamentary blocs but are not deputies in the House.

Whatever choice the premier finally opts for, the sources said he would never-

theless meet with the different blocs and discuss with them the policies and formation of his government.

Based on his consultation, the premier will also have to use his constitutional prerogative and present the King's Speech from the Throne as a government statement or seek confidence on a government-written policy statement that would come closer to the specific requests of the different parliamentary blocs.

The sources believe that if the premier was able to reach understandings with the different parliamentary blocs to ensure himself a big share of confidence votes, then he would opt to prepare a government policy statement if only because it would give his government more credibility.

## Senate holds hasty first session

(Continued from page 1)

"will witness great events as they will witness the changes and their outcome in terms of political and economic integrations and the formation of giant economic blocs in various world regions."

At the same time, there are international efforts to form financial and monetary blocs and establish economic operation based on free trade and environment protection, he said. On the peace process and Jordan's participation in it, Mr. Lawzi said: "Jordan's approach to the peace process remains in cohesion with the clear Jordanian policy

and the need to regain Arab rights and insure the total Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, including Holy Jerusalem, in accordance with international legitimacy and on the basis of land for peace."

"Today the Arab Nation faces the challenge of peace which requires keenness to protect Arab rights and interests without allowing differences in opinion to become a reason for more disparity and differences for which, we as Arabs, during the past few years, have paid a heavy price."

On Jordan's relations with other Arab countries, Mr. Lawzi said: "Jordan extends a brotherly hand to cooperate in finding a common ground

not dealing with the coming stage of international and regional changes based on reviving pan-Arab work institutions and forming an Arab vision which can best ensure the protection of our national and regional interests."

"Our commitment to the economic reform programme requires us to exert efforts to convince the international circles to appreciate the size of the suffering and sacrifices that Jordan made as a result of regional circumstances, and to ask them to alleviate the burden of our external debts, to enable Jordan to build a healthy base for investment, achieve comprehensive development and curb poverty and unemployment," he said.

## Cabinet endorses 1994 budget

(Continued from page 1)

The reduction in the overall deficit from up to 25 per cent of the gross domestic product in the late 1980s is noted by international economic experts as a major achievement for Jordan, given the severe economic blow it suffered and continues to suffer as direct and indirect results of the 1990-91 Gulf crisis triggered by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

"It was considered almost impossible for a country with features that are unique for Jordan to have recovered from the problems it faced in the aftermath of the Gulf crisis," said a senior World Bank expert.

By and large, the expert said, Jordan's adherence to the economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Kingdom's self-adjustment could be equally, could credit for the country's economic recovery.

"There is a growing sense of self-reliance and the need to raise optimum results from the resources available rather than looking for international assistance," said the expert. "This is what we are always looking for in countries that face problems similar to that of Jordan."

Finance Minister Sami Gammo was quoted as saying by Reuters: "I am optimistic that early next year the economic outlook will be brighter with the direction towards

peace picking up regionally and concrete economic agreements being implemented."

In his traditional Speech from the Throne, the King affirmed that local revenues would cover current expenditures and part of the capital expenditures.

"Initial indicators show that the national economy has achieved positive results, for the second year running," the King said, adding that the gross domestic product was expected to grow by six per cent and inflation will remain under 4.5 per cent.

The King also noted that Jordan had made progress in addressing its foreign debt burden by reaching rescheduling agreements with the London Club of commercial banks and the Paris Club of creditor governments.

"The monetary authorities have succeeded in replenishing the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves while ensuring stability in the exchange rates of the Jordan dinar," the King said.

He said commercial credit policies adopted by the government had been "carefully attuned to planned growth policies."

The King also announced that the government was drawing up legislation related to customs duties, consumption tax, income tax and real estate transactions as well as the Amman Financial Market.

## Ministry seeks to identify 6 homeless elderly citizens in its case

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Six elderly people aged 60-85 last week were picked up by Ministry of Social Development officials, who said the elderly persons were homeless and were sleeping in the streets, according to a ministry official who preferred anonymity.

Ministry officials were doing their daily, routine check of the country's streets,

in search of beggars, solicitors and homeless individuals and picked up the six men in various locations in the Kingdom," the official said.

He said the ministry was unable to identify any of the men because some of them were either deaf, mute or had memory loss.

The ministry decided to place advertisements in local newspapers in an effort to identify the homeless persons.

According to the official, the elderly were placed temporarily in Um Al Asaker Centre near Na'our until relatives identify and claim them.

The official told the Jordan Times that the ministry will care for the elderly in its senior citizen centres until someone identifies them.

Furthermore, he added that if no one claims them, the ministry will continue to care for them in the centre.

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## Hope and light from under the dome

THE OPENING of the 12th Parliament yesterday is one further step in Jordan's march towards the establishment of a democratic and modern state building on the country's achievements during the past four decades. The new full House, the Lower and the Upper, with 80 new members, ushers in a new breed of mostly young politicians who are expected to enliven the country's political and social debate. Notwithstanding the change that characterises the composition of the new Lower House as a consequence of the introduction of the one-person, one-vote election formula, the new deputies are more representative of the grassroots aspirations of the people. While those deputies are expected to busy themselves with the concerns of their constituencies, they have the constitutional mandate to legislate while at the same time watching the performance of the government. These are certainly not the easiest of tasks. The government has already committed itself to a comprehensive programme of political, economic, social and administrative reforms. It therefore becomes imperative that the deputies make it their main mission to exhort the government to adhere to its commitments as detailed yesterday in His Majesty the King's speech from the Throne.

Jordan's commitment, as now been repeatedly stated by His Majesty King Hussein, to a just, durable and honourable peace, places further challenges on the deputies. The task the government has been entrusted with, continuation of peace talks with Israel, is indeed a formidable one. While the peace that will emerge from the current talks might not be to the liking of some, it will nevertheless put the country face to face with new challenges that are different from past one. These challenges require the strengthening of democracy and the reform of government.

Issues like the future of Jordanian-Palestinian relations, ties with other Arab states and the new world order will certainly figure high on the agenda of the 12th Parliament. Judging from the performance of the Lower House during its first session, the next four years will hopefully be productive ones. The election of former minister Taher Masri to head the House in its first year is a good omen. Through his background, immense experience and liberal leanings, Mr. Masri is expected to lead the House on the right track.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WITH THE opening of the 12th Parliament, Jordan is embarking on a new stage in its democratic march and stands at the threshold of a new phase of parliamentary life, said Al-Dustour daily. Jordanians now have their eyes on their representatives whose work will not doubt be scrutinised carefully and whose performance will be closely watched, said the daily. His Majesty King Hussein will chart the work of the coming government which, the paper said, will be closely working with the legislative authority to pursue efforts towards development and progress. It said that in an atmosphere of democracy and freedom, the Parliament can achieve a great deal and can act responsibly to help the executive authority implement programmes and policies as directed by King Hussein. The paper expressed hope that the Parliament and the government would not let the people down and would remain committed to the democratic traditions in handling the affairs of the Kingdom.

A COLUMNIST in Al-Ra'i bitterly criticised the United Nations for ignoring calls for ending the sanctions and the starvation imposed on the Iraqi people. The United Nations persists in maintaining the sanctions on Iraq, causing so much suffering to its people, and is ignoring calls for ending the siege at a time when it is quick to react to reports in the British press about alleged Iraqi use of chemicals against the people of the Iraqi marshlands, said Tareq Masarweh. The writer said that it is to be regretted that the United Nations gives due concern to such reports and reads them carefully and ignores reports about the starved people of Iraq. It is strange to see the United Nations giving attention to the British press reports but ignoring reports by pilots of U.S. and British planes who continually conduct aerial surveillance of the marshlands and who have reported no such atrocities as alleged by the British press, said the writer. It is also regrettable to see the United Nations listening to one of the Iraqi opposition leaders and not hearing the calls of reason, said the writer. London and Washington clearly want to perpetuate the sanctions on Iraq and are creating excuses to do that, he charged. At the same time, he said, certain Arab countries which stand to gain from these sanctions are helping the West achieve its goals in the region.

## King pledges unabated march of democracy, commitment to the course of peace

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate  
Blessings and peace be on the faithful  
Hashemite Arab Prophet

Honourable senators,  
Honourable deputies,

In the name of the Almighty God, and with His guidance and succor, I open the first session of the Twelfth Jordanian National Assembly. I praise the Almighty for bestowing on us the capacity to unify our ranks, to strengthen brotherly ties among us, to engage in consensual cooperation and solidarity and to preserve our deep-rooted national unity within the framework of our political life based on the rule of law and of our march founded on the constitution, on the National Charter and on respect for human rights, freedom and dignity.

I wish to congratulate you on earning the honour of serving this beloved country as well as our Arab and Islamic nation, to which Jordan is proud to belong and whose rights and causes we are proud to defend.

We have commanded that elections be held at their appointed time — under the aegis of political pluralism stemming from this country's soil and character and closely linked with its distinctive progress — despite the rapid and sudden changes and developments that have taken place in our region.

With great ability and efficiency my government was able to provide the wherewithal for the success of parliamentary elections held in a democratic climate of freedom and fairness, with the participation of all citizens regardless of their roots or origins. Every citizen has enjoyed total freedom with regard to running for elections or exercising the right to vote. The amendment to the Electoral Law, which gave one vote to each voter, was arrived at only after a thorough debate by politicians, intellectuals, members of the media and representatives of all shades of party and political opinion in this beloved country — a debate derived from the letter and spirit of the Constitution, and the National Charter, ensuring equality in rights and obligations for the entire citizenry.

The fairness of the elections, and the cooperation of all to make them a success, have reflected a high level of awareness by members of our one family, the close bonds that tie them together whatever their origins, their courage in rising to a difficult task, their participation in shouldering responsibility and their equality in rights and obligations. In equal measure, this fairness and cooperation have demonstrated the impartiality of my government and its keenness to provide a climate of freedom, equality and universal representation in the interest of electoral equity to which we have all aspired. Thanks to the Almighty, the testimony of all, far and near, has been that the elections were totally honest, straightforward, all-embracing, fair, just and indicative of our national unity to which we all adhere, whose depth and foundations we cherish and whose goals and aims we hold in great pride. Deputies assembled here are a true embodiment of the credibility and objective nature of these elections. I am fully confident that you are well-placed to live up to the task entrusted to you, to cooperate on all that is right and good, to serve the country and enhance its stature and to share in shouldering responsibility and in taking decisions which place the higher national good above any other considerations or interests.

You are, with God's grace, the elite whom our one family has chosen and in whom it has placed its trust. Let us be deserving of this trust, as a united family governed by amity, cooperation and oneness of vision. I am sure you will find, as you represent the legislative power of this twelfth National Assembly, that Jordan's democratic drive has taken great strides towards strengthening the foundations of democracy as reflected in: freedom under the law; elected parliamentary representation; separation among multiple constitutional authorities; answerability of the executive branch to the legislative branch; independence of the judiciary, which answers only to the law; political party pluralism; human rights; and autonomy of elected local government. There are all principles guaranteed by the constitution, and

we should therefore strive to make of our democratic system a model acceptable to our nation and regarded by it as a source of inspiration. This is a sacred trust and responsibility by which you should be guided every time you make a determination on any course of action and on every occasion calling for an honourable stand in the service of the country's higher interest.

Honourable senators,  
Honourable deputies,

Your present assembly coincides with a phase in international political, economic and strategic action which has, over the last few years, seen increasingly rapid changes posing major challenges at the Arab, regional and world levels. Our country has been able to stand firm in facing these challenges and to persist in making determined, confident and steadfast progress.

**"The issue of peace has entered a new stage requiring us to take a strong stand stemming from our national unity, from our constant positions rooted in international legitimacy, and from our unwavering determination to achieve a just, durable and honourable peace which future generations would accept and preserve."**

The issue of peace has entered a new stage requiring us to take a strong stand stemming from our national unity, from our constant positions rooted in international legitimacy, and from our unwavering determination to achieve a just, durable and honourable peace which future generations would accept and preserve. Such a peace would be based on the restoration of all our rights, would guarantee the legitimate right of our Palestinian brethren on their national soil and would provide security and peace to all the states and peoples of our region. To this end, we gave our support to the position taken by the Palestinian people as represented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation. We provided an umbrella ensuring legitimacy for their negotiating team, in a spirit of truthfulness, brotherhood and sincere openness that must prevail among brethren, and the need to support the PLO in realising its national identity.

The PLO, in full freedom and through its own free choice, moved to adopt an independent position, thus bearing a historic responsibility. It concluded the declaration of principles with Israel on Sept. 13, 1993, and Israel recognised PLO representation of the Palestinian people. Israel also recognised the unity of the Palestinian people within and outside the occupied territories. The independent Palestinian will was thus confirmed. This recognition was supported by the great world powers, by the majority of the world's nations. The PLO recognised the state of Israel, and the old enemies shook hands. Based on our conviction since the 1974 Rabat Summit that the mechanism of independent Palestinian decision-making should be respected, we support the PLO and we respect its right to realise the goals of our brethren the Palestinian people. We shall persist in this support — with all our power and capacity. In this conviction, my government repeatedly instructed the Jordanian negotiating team which was committed to taking into consideration the degree of progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track. As soon as the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles was signed with all what that entailed, my government instructed the head of our negotiating team to sign the Jordanian-Israeli negotiating agenda on Sept. 14, 1993, announcing the beginning of our progress towards peace in foolproof, wisely-regulated steps, confident in the ability of our government, of your assembly and of our courageous people to face the challenges of the future nego-

tiating phase with faith, loyalty and determination.

This would direct us towards the dawning of a peace of which the people of the whole region have so far been deprived. A peace that would bring forth satisfaction and stability, that would open wide horizons for the progress and advancement of humanity and the provision of the opportunities of a dignified life eradicating differences at all levels among all.

I am fully confident and I have absolute faith that we all believe that a just and comprehensive peace will not be realised and completed until Jerusalem becomes the city of peace, its symbol and its essence, once its Arabs' occupied land is returned to its owners who have inherited it from their Arab forefathers Muslims and Christians alike and once it becomes the meeting point between the Palestinians and the Israelis, and once it becomes a meeting point of peace for all.

Our commitment to the achievement of peace is a duty we owe to future generations and it propels us to adopt this honest and sincere stance that wants for Jerusalem to be the eternal symbol of peace in the world among the followers of the three monotheistic religions, all of whom are the descendants of the Prophet Abraham may peace be upon him.

As for Jerusalem, the holiest of holies, it lies in the hearts and souls of all believers in God of the three monotheistic faiths. We recognise no sovereignty over it except that of the Almighty God. From this august rostrum I reiterate the call I made in my address to the nation last Oct. 12 to establish a non-political Arab-Islamic body uniting and representing the seven Muslim sects, which would rise above the mundane and trivial, to which would be entrusted the care and oversight of the Muslim holy places. We pledge our support to this body with all the means at our disposal and we pledge not to cede or give up our religious and historical responsibilities in Jerusalem and towards Al-Aqsa and Islamic holy places in Palestine. At the same time, we call for an inter-religious dialogue among the followers of the three monotheistic religions for the purpose of realising God's will for Holy Jerusalem to be the closest to their hearts so that they may worship God Almighty and gain his blessings. Stemming from the legitimacy of our historical and religious responsibilities and from our keen determination to protect and preserve our holy places, we are continuing restoration and renovation works on the Dome of the Rock as well as the capping of the rock with gold-enameled copper plates — which Almighty God has enabled me to carry out in the cause of serving the first of the two Qiblas and the third holy Mosque. The Restoration Committee is currently engaged in reconstructing the pulpit of the Aqsa Mosque, under my own direct oversight, in the wake of the letter I addressed to my government in this regard. So that the pulpit of the Prophet — may peace be upon him — is restored to its past splendour and historical role of inspiring the faithful.

**"Our country's peace and stability, as well as the protection of its independence and accomplishments, the freedom to our citizens, their human dignity, their personal and public safety and the preservation of national peace and security, are an indivisible whole."**

Honourable senators,  
Honourable deputies,

Our country's peace and stability, as well as the protection of its independence and accomplishments, the freedom to our citizens, their human dignity, their personal and public safety and the preservation of national peace and security, are an indivisible whole. They are protected and secured by the vanguard of our people, members of our Arab Legion members of the Jordanian ground, air and naval Armed Forces, by members of our Public Security, General

Intelligence and Civil Defence bodies. Through their keen national awareness and integrated work, they truly represent our country's shield and security and are a source of pride and admiration to us all. I would like to take this auspicious opportunity to convey to them, from this rostrum, our greetings and appreciation, for they are our nation's true and honourable defenders, loyal to their country and their nation. They are as well the guardians of the principles of the Great Arab Revolt, whose banner they, with God's help, shall for ever hold high. My government will persist in its commitment to the obligation of providing them with our full support and watchful care to ensure their development and upgrading, thus enabling them to continue their distinctive task of protecting our country, safeguarding the security of our citizenry and carrying out their humanitarian world mission as part of the international peacekeeping forces.

**"As with previous governments, my government will continue its efforts to develop and upgrade administrative performance in the interest of greater dynamism and efficiency. The administrative effort will be led by the most highly qualified citizens, capable of transcending red tape, nepotism and individualism, thus serving all citizens without ulterior motive or discrimination."**

Honourable senators,  
Honourable deputies,

Ever since free Jordanians joined the ranks of the Great Arab Revolt under the revolutionary Hashemite Hussein Ibn Ali, God rest his soul, through the time loyal Jordanians declared fealty to the martyred King Abdullah Ibn Al-Hussein, and up to the period of my assumption of constitutional powers, this Arab country has been seeking to achieve full Arab solidarity. We were a founding member of the League of Arab states and have, since its inception, striven to support its work and institutions. Forty-eight years into its existence, it is high time that an effort is made to amend its charter, in line with contemporary needs. This is necessary in order to achieve a greater measure of cooperation and coordination among all Arab states, in a bid to restore for the Arab Nation its rightful position, which is commensurate with its history and noble message, and to overcome its current weakness brought about by side differences and disputes.

My government will continue with all means at its disposal, to strengthen cooperation with all sister Islamic states, especially in defence of the reputation and the humane and compassionate principles of the righteous Muslim faith. With regard to our relations with friendly states, my government will continue to maintain and strengthen them on a basis of mutual confidence and respect, reciprocity, common interests and non-interference in internal affairs. My government will give special attention to matters pertaining to the United Nations and to regional and international organisations as well as to enhancing its role in these organisations and seeking to upgrade their extant legislation, reorganise their structure and revise their charters.

Honourable senators,  
Honourable deputies,

As we strive to establish a secure modern state founded on principles of right, justice, equality and equal opportunities for all, it is imperative that we focus our efforts on constructing a model state and enhancing the concept of the state of law, which alone can safeguard human rights and ensure the citizen's security, well-being, stability and faith in the future. In order to uphold this concept, my govern-

ment has established a cabinet portfolio for legal affairs, as a means of stressing respect for and supremacy of the law as a way of life. This new organ of cabinet will pursue a course of upgrading legislation, in full cooperation with your August assembly, of strengthening ties between the legislative and executive branches, of government follow-up of parliamentary matters and of addressing common concerns in conformity with the higher national interest.

The government has taken major strides in this respect. Since assuming its responsibilities, it has seen to the enactment of legislation pertaining to the structure and administration of a number of ministries and organisations, including among others, the statute on cabinet prerogatives and the reorganisation and administration of the Prime Ministry and the Ministry of Health.

The government has also established several committees composed of distinguished authorities in their fields to draw up draft legislation on matters closely affecting the citizens' interests. Upgraded legislation will contribute to a more rapid resolution of court cases, to enhanced performance in the judicial domain and to facilitate procedures. In a similar vein, the government continues to pursue its policy of supporting the independence of the judiciary, guaranteeing its impartiality, upgrading its performance and appointing qualified and distinguished judges. The government has begun to open new court-houses in various regions of the Kingdom and to construct the necessary buildings to house them.

In response to our directive to upgrade our diplomatic institutions and enable them to carry out their mission of strengthening Jordan's ties with other countries and reflecting the true face of Jordan, my government has drawn up a special by-law for the diplomatic corps as well as a by-law organising the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and regulating its work in such a manner as to enhance performance and improve living conditions for staff in our diplomatic missions.

My government has begun to apply the concept of administrative and financial decentralisation. This involves an activation of the role of governors, executive bodies and local councils in the various governorates. Some of the prerogatives of ministers have been delegated to governors and to executive and consultative councils, in pursuance of the principles of freedom, participation in the decision-making process, sharing of responsibility, service to the people, participation by the people in administering their local affairs and moving the decision-making process to where the citizens are. Decentralisation would thus meet the objective of enhancing the democratic way of life.

In pursuing the participatory principle, my government is determined, beginning this year, to transform the budget into a document of work and direction. It will no longer be a budget merely concerned with ministries, departments or projects but one that encompasses the various governorates and reflects current and capital expenditures in each governorate. My government is also preparing legislation to regulate local administration and

local government.

As with previous governments, my government will continue its efforts to develop and upgrade administrative performance in the interest of greater dynamism and efficiency. The administrative effort will be led by the most highly qualified citizens, capable of transcending red tape, nepotism and individualism, thus serving all citizens without ulterior motive or discrimination. To ensure their effectiveness, administrative organs of government should have clear guidelines and oversight. To this end, the Bureau of Control and Administrative Inspection has begun its work, now that necessary legislation has been completed for this purpose. Its work will be additional to the oversight exercised by the Audit Bureau over state revenues, expenditures and methods of disbursement.

Honourable senators,  
Honourable deputies,

Our constant belief in freedom of thought, speech and participation — as guaranteed by the Constitution and the law and exercised in a climate of responsibility — has provided the means for an active intellectual, cultural, literary and youth movement, as shown in the overall cultural renaissance pervading the country. Popular, fine and theatre arts have flourished. Seminars, lectures and cultural fora have mushroomed in every region.

The print media have been increasingly active. Daily newspapers and weekly magazines have been published under the new Press and Publications Law for 1993, which guarantees the freedom of press, publication and opinion to all Jordanians. Most newspapers have adhered to the legal framework and have responsibly observed the freedom provided therein.

The Ministry of Information has launched a new information strategy for Jordan, by means of which official bodies, means of communication and work practices will be upgraded to enable them to cope with rapid change on the Arab and international scenes. Now that Jordanian satellite television has commenced broadcasting to the Arab world, work is continuing apace to extend its coverage to Europe and the Americas. It will be a vehicle reflecting Jordan's true achievements abroad.

My Government has drawn up an integrated plan to develop the posts and communications sector and extend services to all regions of the Kingdom. This will be done through an investment programme aimed at upgrading satellite communications and adding new national and international exchanges and telephone networks.

In the realm of education, my government will continue to implement the educational development plan launched six years ago, with emphasis on the active role of education in the process of democratic change. There will be a clear focus in quality, including: Upgrading the teaching profession in terms of performance and status; developing curricula and school textbooks in content and layout; providing a variety of new educational facilities; relinquishing rented school buildings; improving the level of educational admin-

(Continued on page 5)

### LETTERS

## Strength behind kindness

To the Editor:

Like many Jordanians, I am always gratified to see His Majesty King Hussein walking that extra mile in order to win the understanding and cooperation of his Arab counterparts. King Hussein has made many visits to various Arab capitals and held formal and informal meetings with Arab leaders on their own turfs without ever suggesting that it is high time that the Arab heads of state reciprocate this generosity. Yet there is always a fear that some Arab countries may interpret the King's kindness as a sign of weakness.

We, Jordanians, fully understand the strength that lies beneath King Hussein's compassion on the domestic and regional levels. We just want our Arab neighbours to also comprehend and appreciate this Jordanian hospitality by reciprocating the courteous visits extended to them once in a while.

Ryan W. Sadi,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



## Jordan committed to peace, democracy

(Continued from page 4)

administration, developing evaluation methods and public examinations; and, emphasising the role of the school as a unit of educational development and an active component of the local community.

My government will reinforce the role of private education and will provide all necessary means to enable it to carry out this role to the fullest degree and to contribute to all areas of education.

My government will pay due attention to special education geared towards people with particular needs and towards the handicapped. This would include: An activation of pre-school education; expansion of adult education opportunities; and dissemination and diversification of vocational training opportunities. It will also seek close links between educational output and educational cycles on the one hand and development and labour requirements on the other.

At the level of university education, my government has launched a comprehensive review of regulations and procedures at state and private universities with a view to introducing a set of changes and amendments in a manner that would: Reinforce the independence of the universities; parallel scientific, social and democratic growth in the Jordanian society; and improve conditions for university personnel for the purpose of serving the academic process. My government pays particular attention to Al-Bait University to enable it to realise its Arab and Islamic objectives.

Sports and youth activities in the Kingdom have shown great vigour. Clubs have participated in elections for membership in the governing councils of Olympic athletic associations. A number of sports complexes have been constructed in the various regions. My government has established the Jordanian Centre for trainers as an investment in national training capacity and a means of enhancing athletic performance all over the Kingdom. It has also taken the initiative in utilizing the capabilities of our youth and giving them a meaningful direction through the higher committee for voluntary work. It has established four youth camps, in addition to the youth hostel in Aqaba.

### Honourable senators, Honourable deputies,

Complementing past efforts, my government has persisted in construction and development efforts at all levels aimed at achieving an advanced state of economic growth and social and cultural development. The five year plan for economic and social development: 1993-1997 has been ratified. The plan is rooted in an economic policy which seeks to activate

the role of the private sector while upgrading the performance of the public sector. It is derived from a comprehensive view of economic and social realities. It strives to enhance sustainable development whilst taking into consideration the economic restructuring programme for 1992-1998 in order to achieve domestic and external balance in our national economy. Integrated packages of economic and social policies have been adopted. They provide the private sector with a sufficient range of opportunities and accord it priority in the investment and productive effort. My government has also continued its drive to combat unemployment and poverty. To this end, it has launched a number of projects to alleviate this problem and raise income levels. Among these projects is one aiming at diversifying sources of income for needy families. Others have the objective of supporting the Development and Employment Fund, the National Assistance Fund and the Zakat Fund and committees. The efforts of voluntary organisations have also been supported. My government will give due attention to citizens with special needs of all kinds, through providing work opportunities for the handicapped as stipulated by the disability law. Special employment offices will be established to serve this group.

My government will also strive to enhance the role of the voluntary social sector and expand the base of citizen participation in areas affecting their own lives and communities, through the establishment of new cooperative and charitable societies. My government has also completed the establishment of the Information Centre for the Social Development Sector which will help activate and upgrade the performance of social assistance organisations in the public and private sectors.

At the financial and monetary levels, my government has persisted in its efforts to bring about greater self-reliance while preserving financial and monetary stability and reducing the burden of the external debt. Initial indicators show that the national economy has achieved positive results, for the second year running, in conformity with the economic restructuring programme. It is expected that the gross domestic and national products will achieve real growth of about six per cent as a result of growth in the various production sectors, especially construction, agriculture and tourism. It is also expected that inflation will be held to the existing level of under four and a half per cent.

The government has made a strenuous effort to reduce the burden of the external debt through the debt restructuring process. Agreement has been

reached in principle with the London Club — representing commercial creditor banks — on the restructuring of debts amounting to \$895 million. My government will sign the final agreement on the restructuring of those debts and debt interest before the end of the year. My government has been able to secure the agreement of creditor governments — members of the Paris Club — to extend the restructuring period on debts amounting to \$250 million, representing instalments and interest due in the period from July 1, 1993, to February 28, 1994. We have also succeeded in reducing the budget deficit for this current year and controlling expenditures. Domestic revenues, again for the second year running in the Kingdom's history, have covered total operating expenditures as well as a large part of investment expenditures.

Financial accomplishments have not been divorced from monetary stability. The monetary authorities have succeeded in replenishing the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves, while ensuring stability in the exchange rates of the Jordan dinar. Credit facilities extended by banks and specialised credit agencies to the various productive and service sectors have been carefully attuned to planned growth policies. In the field of financial legislation, my government is conducting a review of legislation pertaining to customs as well as taxes on consumption, income, property, free zones and the Amman Financial Market with a view to keeping abreast of developments in those areas. At the level of industrial investment, my government has sought to provide facilities, within available means, to create a stable investment climate. This has enabled the registration of more than 843 industrial projects which provide 11,200 new job opportunities, in addition to a rise in the number of local companies registered, which amounted to 4,017 companies during the year. A department for the encouragement of investment has been set up to serve as a reference point enabling investors to implement projects without difficulty. Appropriate measures have been taken to expand trade and industrial estates. My government has received a number of economic and commercial agreements existing between Jordan and Arab and foreign countries with view to raising the level of trade exchange and enhancing domestic exports to their markets.

My government has demonstrated its interest in the private sector through supporting private initiative and participation in the decision-making process, out of conviction that the private sector plays an important role in economic and social growth.

Pursuant to our belief in the twin roles of political and economic democracy, together with the principle of sharing in the decision-making process, my government has paid due attention to restructuring the Economic Consultative Council and expanding its base through adding men of distinction to its membership. The council has been invited to regular meetings to devise common solutions to basic economic issues, including investment legislation, economic and monetary policies, price and wage policies, privatisation and the contribution of the public and private sectors to economic activities.

### Honourable senators, Honourable deputies,

My government has continued oil and gas explorations in the Risha and Dead Sea regions. It has expanded the capacity of the Risha gas-operated power turbines. A first well is currently being dug in northern Risha. Measures are being taken to establish a national oil and gas company.

In the field of mineral resources, my government will continue the necessary technical surveys of mineral resources in the various regions of the Kingdom. Positive results have been achieved through the discovery of promising new mineral resources.

My government persisting in its drive to expand and develop renewable energy resources, including wind energy, solar energy and oil shale.

In agriculture, my government is continuing its drive to reclaim new lands in elevated areas and plant them with fruit trees, to complete national afforestation projects, to develop the Hamman region and to provide capital and operating loans to farmers.

An agreement has recently been signed pertaining to the income diversification project in cooperation with the International Agricultural Development Fund. Another agreement is in the process of being concluded with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to finance projects securing small scale farmers.

In the area of labour, vocational training and social security, my government strives to provide a favourable climate for work and productive endeavours as well as for vocational safety, social security for the worker and his family and the means of enhancing professional and productive skills, through training and rehabilitation programmes.

My government is persisting in taking constitutional and legal measures to enact a new labour law which would improve employment conditions, address issues pertaining to working women and ensure greater benefits for the labour force.

My government has established the mechanisms and procedures needed to regulate the employment of guest workers, coupled with constraints on their competitiveness with the domestic work force. It continues to lend its support to labour and employers unions

so as to strengthen the three elements of production in an integrated manner that would serve the purposes of national productivity. My government has completed the blueprints for a labour-employment organisation, which will be brought into existence in due course. It has also completed a draft law to regulate vocational work through mandated vocational classification and stratification.

My government continues to support the vocational training institute with a view to upgrading the quality of trainers and enhancing the institute's absorptive capacity, enabling it to accommodate 72,000 trainees over the years of the five-year plan: 1993-1997. My government also persists in its oversight of the social security institute with regard to the provision of social security benefits, support of the national economy and protection and enhancement of the real value of its assets in order to enable it to meet its commitments to subscribers.

### Honourable senators, Honourable deputies,

My government has sought to expand the health insurance umbrella. To this end, it will be enacting legislation to bring all citizens into the health insurance scheme. It also seeks to disseminate preventive health care and to draw up regulations aimed at strengthening health supervision. At the level of curative medicine, work is afoot to raise the absorptive capacity of government hospitals through: Increasing beds in most hospitals of the Kingdom; establishing new hospitals, most important of which will be the King Abdullah Hospital and the hospitals of Karak, Yajouz and Deir Abi Saeed; and activating the role of health centres and the private health sector, enabling this sector to do its part alongside the public health sector.

My government is also about to complete a draft law on the environment to regulate cooperation among the parties concerned with environmental preservation and pollution protection. The law will lead to the establishment of a public environmental organisation enjoying financial autonomy. There will be a higher council on the environment which would include representatives from the public and private sectors and semi-official, non-governmental and voluntary societies. These will be given an active voice in policy-making and the implementation of environmental projects. Jordan has continued its distinctive role at the international level connected with environmental protection, through active participation in conferences and seminars as well as through implementing the provisions of international conventions on the environment which Jordan has had a hand in drawing up or has formally signed.

In the interest of providing food security, my government

has continued to ensure regular strategic food reserves which would meet the Kingdom's needs for a period of six months. It has also preserved price stability of basic food within the limits of the subsidy earmarked for this purpose which includes support for domestic agricultural production. My government will continue to provide basic foodstuffs at acceptable prices while seeking to ensure that support reaches those who actually need it, with a view to achieving both justice and economic reform.

In the area of drinking water, my government has continued to establish principle and secondary water networks serving new population centres while, at the same time, upgrading existing networks to

**"Our faith in the unity of this nation and in future generations requires us to seek to revive mutual confidence among Arab brethren, to transcend the obstacles and shortcomings, which have beset the course of Arab solidarity, to renounce quarrels and disagreements and to reinstitute amity and mutual understanding."**

ensure better water distribution. The proportion of the population served by public water networks has now reached 98 per cent of the Jordanian people.

In the irrigation sector, my government will proceed to implement a comprehensive development plan for the remaining parts of the Ghor areas. The implementation of this ambitious plan will commence next year and will serve to develop the Wadi Araba region along lines used for the Jordan Valley and southern Ghors and to turn them into productive and population-attracting areas.

As for dams, work will commence before the end of the

year on a planned construction of a number of large dams in areas showing promise along the valleys leading to the Ghor regions. Implementation of the catchment and desert dam programme will continue, with participation by the Jordanian Armed Forces in order to contribute to the development of the Badia regions.

In the area of housing, my government is doing its part in helping to secure appropriate dwellings and provide urbanised services to low-income families.

My government is also engaged in the establishment, development and maintenance of the public roads network. It continues to provide the network with all necessary traffic amenities and to build new roads. It will also continue to support the construction sector.

In the field of transport, my government has begun to take the necessary steps to ensure a unified system of oversight over the transport sector. It will provide incentives for the private sector to invest in the administration and ownership of the transport sector. It has drawn up draft legislation to set up a higher transport council and affiliated sectoral committees to assist in setting public policy for the coming phase. It has also begun the process of establishing an informatics centre to serve the needs of the sector. It has taken the necessary measures to restructure Royal Jordanian to enable it to forge ahead with its national responsibilities.

My government pays great attention to archaeological sites and historic buildings insofar as they are a national treasure and a cultural tradition of which we are proud, in addition to being tourist attractions for domestic and foreign tourists. It seeks to: develop tourist facilities; to provide both infrastructural and superstructural support to tourist development areas in the various regions; and to diversify the services of tourist facilities and to enhance their capacity to receive tourists and guests from Jordan and abroad. This should increase economic returns in a manner that would support the balance of payments, replenish the treasury's hard currency holdings, enhance the rate of economic growth and expand the gross national product. The private sector will have a major role in tourist development through

incentives aimed at expanding investment through streamlined procedures, tourist-development legislation and marketing and advertising drives in international tourist markets.

### Honourable senators, Honourable deputies,

Our faith in the unity of this nation and in future generations requires us to seek to revive mutual confidence among Arab brethren, to transcend the obstacles and shortcomings, which have beset the course of Arab solidarity, to renounce quarrels and disagreements and to reinstitute amity and mutual understanding. Factors for an Arab meeting of the minds far outstrip those that make for reserve or false accusation. In all that pertains to Arab action, we should proceed from the concept of overall national security, interrelated interests and a common future in the interest of finding a comprehensive solution to the various strategic problems which we face.

The current phase requires a high degree of coordination. It requires a unified position on the issue of peace, which would lead to the restoration of just Palestinian and Arab rights. Jordan will persist in its strenuous efforts to strengthen ties with Islamic states, enhance cooperation with them and show the bright humanitarian face of our righteous faith, its compassionate principles and enlightened open-mindedness.

Jordan will strengthen its relationship with the other countries of the world. In this connection, it has established diplomatic relations with the Asian republics, Eritrea and South Africa. It has also contributed humanitarian aid to Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

### Honourable senators, Honourable deputies,

Our country's blessed march requires every sincere effort, a great deal of hard work and a large measure of fruitful cooperation among the members of our one family, be they officials or private citizens. May God assist you in the great task ahead. May He bless you with success and guide your steps along the path of goodness and righteousness.

Peace be with you and God's mercy and His blessings.

## Masri sweeps to speakership

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Masri said the responsibilities of the House will be greater due "to the absence of some current national issues (from the election campaigns) with rendered the debate between the candidates and the voters incomplete."

Mr. Masri pledged to strengthen the performance of the House and work to provide its members with the technical and administrative help they would need in performing their duties.

Emphasising that Jordan has a parliamentary political system, Mr. Masri urged the executive authority to cooperate with the legislature and to address "the people through their representatives."

"His Majesty King Hussein has on various occasions emphasised the necessity of renewing the content of the Hashemite Jordanian political message... but until now the official and popular agencies, institutions, parties and individuals have not sufficiently responded to this call which is urged by local, regional and international changes," said Mr. Masri.

"This makes the House responsible," for helping bring about that change, he said. Emphasising the strength of the Jordanian-Palestinian ties, Mr. Masri said this relationship is a model for Arab unity.

The House started its session under the chairmanship of Deputy Abdul Baqi Jammo after His Majesty King Hussein opened the 12th Parliament with the speech from the Throne.

IAF member Deputy Abdul Aziz Jaber started a tense debate at the outset of the session when he altered

the oath that deputies are constitutionally required to take before the requirements for their membership in the House are met.

To the pledge for loyalty to the King and country and service to the nation, Mr. Jaber, followed by all IAF deputies, added the phrase "within the dictates of God and His Prophet."

Sheikh Jammo requested Mr. Jaber to repeat his oath and stick to the phrasing as specified in the Constitution but Mr. Jaber and other Islamist deputies insisted on adding the phrase. Mr. Jaber also took the oath sitting down but other members of the IAF agreed to stand up after Sheikh Jammo pointed that the "norm" required so.

Deputy Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh then proposed to go ahead with the session and refer the dispute to the Higher Council for the Interpretation of the Constitution. Mr. Jammo agreed to the proposal.

The first woman deputy in the Lower House, Toujan Faisal, took the oath without using the feminine pronouns "in order to stick to the oath as spelled out in the Constitution."

Mafraq Deputy Mohammad Abu Oleim added to the pledge of loyalty to the King and country the phrase "within the dictates of God, the Prophet and the leaders."

The House then elected an 11-member committee to respond to the King's speech from the Throne which will be discussed Sunday.

Deputies will hold their next session Sunday to elect members of the judicial, finance, foreign affairs and administrative committees.



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# unicef

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The United Nations Children's Fund, seeks qualified Jordanian candidates for the following position:

### INFORMATION/COMMUNICATION OFFICER - NOC

Duty Station: Amman, Jordan

Under the direct supervision of the Area Representative, the Information/Communication Officer will undertake activities pertaining the development, planning, implementation and monitoring of information and communication strategies to support the programmes of UNICEF Area Office. Develop and implement information strategies and materials. Design, manage and implement communications plans of action to facilitate social mobilisation, community education and involvement. Identify the need for info/communication materials, manage their production and distribution to largest audience to advocate and promote organisational goals. Develop training materials and organise for special events activities. Develop close collaboration with professional groups, NGOs, and mass media in order to generate and maintain public interest and support in UNICEF programme goals. Plan and monitor the use of info budgetary resources. Monitor and evaluate activities on the basis of applied communication research and frequent visits to project sites, and occasional missions outside Jordan.

#### Minimum qualifications:

Advanced university degree in communication, journalism, public relations, health education. Five to seven years of relevant working experience preferably in development work. Fluency and strong written skills in English and Arabic. Knowledge of computer systems and applications.

Please send detailed resume, in English, quoting reference No.93-04. to:

Chief of Operations  
UNICEF Regional Office  
P.O.Box 811721, Amman-Jordan

Qualified women are encouraged to apply. Applications for this position must be received by **December 6, 1993.**

Acknowledgement will only be sent to short-listed candidates under serious consideration.

UNICEF is a smoke-free environment



# EC ministers limit working week to 48 hours

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) employment ministers Tuesday signed legislation to set a maximum working week of 48 hours throughout the bloc.

"Today we have passed a milestone on the road towards the creation of a European social policy," the EC's Social Affairs Commissioner Padraig Flynn said in a statement, adding that the deal came after three years of hard negotiation.

But the row over the controversial law may not be over as Britain has made clear it intends to challenge its validity in the EC Court, saying it has been introduced under false health and safety at work grounds.

Mr. Flynn said that although most EC citizens work considerably less than 48 hours, a significant number of workers would gain increased protection under the law, which will come into force within three years.

The legislation, which London consistently opposed, despite gaining lengthy grace periods, provides for a maximum 48-hour working week.

including overtime, a minimum 11-hour daily rest period and at least one day's rest per week.

It also provides for annual paid leave for four weeks, and limits night work to eight hours.

Sections like transport and fishing and student doctors are excluded from the legislation's scope.

The finance ministers have ruled out proposals for stringent targets to boost the bloc's economic growth and back away at its record unemployment.

Ministers said Monday that two European Commission documents, one a white paper on jobs and growth and the other a series of macro-economic guidelines for creating a single currency, pointed in the right direction but were too ambitious.

But papers will be watered down in meetings scheduled for the weeks ahead.

That will take some of the heat out of the Community's Dec. 10-11 summit, the last before stage two of the European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) starts on Jan. 1.

"There is a political will to

do something together to tackle the problems of jobs and growth," said one diplomat at Monday's meeting. "But after that each and every minister has his own idea of how to go about it."

The Commission forecast this month that the EC jobless rate would rise from 10.6 per cent this year to 11.3 per cent in 1995 as economies' average growth recovered to just 2.1 per cent from a contraction of 0.4 per cent.

The aim of the Commission's papers is to create 15 million jobs, halve the unemployment rate to five per cent by the turn of the century and lift economic growth to above three per cent by 1996.

Both papers call for rapid interest rate cuts of up to three percentage points, a reduction in inflation to between two and three per cent, holding wage rises to one per cent below productivity growth and reducing labour market rigidities.

But the ministers, many of whom feel they are struggling enough to control their country's ballooning budget deficits, balked at the prescriptions.

"The central aim is to create the best conditions for a relaunch of the European economy," French Economy Minister Edmond Alphandery said. "But I think we are all pretty much agreed about the danger of quantifying it."

While the ministers might be prepared to accept some of the notional aims in the white paper — which is not legally binding — they were set against specific targets in the macro-economic guidelines, which will have legal force from Jan. 1.

They turned their noses up at proposals to shift the burden of taxation from labour to indirect taxes such as on carbon dioxide and value added tax (VAT).

And, according to British Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Kenneth Clarke, there was a "general thumbs down" for proposals on cutting working time and sharing jobs.

That issue has recently been sensitive in France, where unemployment is at a record 11.7 per cent and set to break through 12.0 per cent soon.

The French parliament, after much debate, last week

passed a plan to cut the working week by 15 per cent in the hope that it would bring a 10 per cent increase in jobs.

Commission President Jacques Delors conceded that there was no miracle cure for unemployment and signalled a willingness to redraft the documents.

More concretely, he presented ministers at the meeting with a plan to spend up to 150 billion ECU (\$168.2 billion) to boost growth and create jobs.

His idea follows a proposal from French President Francois Mitterrand to issue a 100 billion ECU (\$121.1 billion) bond to fund European road, rail and telecommunications networks over five years.

EC finance ministers did, however, approve plans from France and Germany to make their economies converge in preparation for a future single EC currency.

The plans, not identical but drawn up in consultation, are designed to send a signal that the apparent rift between the two during the bloc's currency crisis last summer has not damaged their alliance.

## Political woes drive Italian lira to record lows

MILAN (R) — The lira crashed to record lows Tuesday, triggering further heavy falls in share prices, as nervous investors took flight at Italy's political confusion.

The Italian currency slumped to a record 1,000.25 to the German mark before recovering slightly as all European financial markets took heart from a cut in British interest rates.

Alarmed by the weakness of the currency, investors in Italian stocks and bonds also began unloading their holdings, extending heavy losses seen Monday.

"It is turning into a horrible hangover. The markets are still grappling with the implications of Sunday's vote," said one stock trader, referring to local elections showing heavy gains for the political left and right.

The poll result deepened fears that national elections due in the spring will not yield the sort of stable and decisive government Italy needs to deal with several economic and social problems.

The vote has also cast doubt on whether banker Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi will be able to force through a deficit-cutting budget package by an end-year deadline.

His main parliamentary backers, the Christian Democrats, were humiliated in the polls and party members in parliament were meeting Tuesday to decide on whether to keep supporting a budget package that could lose them even more votes.

The Milan Mibtel stock index, which tumbled nearly five per cent Monday, was down some 1.5 per cent at the mid-session but this was above earlier lows set when the lira was falling fast.

The Italian currency later recovered to around 999 to the mark as speculators booked the profits made on the lira's slide. The bond market was also rebounding from its lows.

"But people are still very nervous," said one bond market trader.

## Premier: Russia won't tolerate massive unemployment

MOSCOW (AP) — Massive unemployment won't be tolerated by the government as it attempts to transform the Russian economy with free market reforms, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin said.

"Russia isn't the USA," he couldn't have such unemployment," he said in an interview published Tuesday in the Trud newspaper.

The Russian economy is experiencing painful changes as the government attempts to dismantle the old Soviet central planning system and move the country to the free market system. Soaring inflation and low productivity have left many businesses struggling to survive.

According to official statistics, widely viewed as underestimates, unemployment is around one per cent. Unofficial estimates put the figure closer to five per cent. Many workers are on unpaid leave or work part-time.

"In some places during this period they (businesses) lower salaries to a minimum, in others, workers go on required vacations, but this is better than if they were to wind up on the street," Mr. Chernomyrdin said.

Russia's tumbling living standards have hit bottom, but so far are not showing signs of rising, Mr. Chernomyrdin said.

The economy is in a state of "unstable equilibrium," Mr.

Chernomyrdin said. But the pace of decline in output has eased and the behemoths of Russian industry are beginning to restructure, he said.

"We are living through perhaps the most difficult period," he said.

Despite the painful costs to Russians of reducing inflation, he said, financial stabilisation "remains our main concern."

The government recently approved an austerity plan aimed at cutting the budget deficit and bringing monthly inflation down to single digits by the end of next year. Subsidies to industry are to be cut sharply.

Inflation in October was 25 per cent. Meanwhile, Russia's central bank boss, joining the political fray ahead of next month's elections, criticised Boris Yeltsin's new critics on foreign banks as a move to woo the country's powerful anti-Western banking lobby.

Viktor Geraschenko, in a television interview, also complained he had not been consulted on the new restrictions, decreed by the president on Nov. 18.

The decree orders banks with more than 50 per cent foreign capital that had not started operations by Nov. 15 to deal with non-resident clients only. "This means our business will be reduced to offshore banking," said one banker.

## U.S. House rejects \$90b cut

WASHINGTON (R) — After hours of bitter debate the House of Representatives handed President Clinton another victory Monday, rejecting a plan to cut \$90 billion over five years in favour of the white House's more modest \$37 billion spending cut.

The House voted 219-213 to turn down the \$90 billion budget amendment offered by Republican John Kasich of Ohio and Democrat Tim Penny of Minnesota, who claimed Mr. Clinton's alternative was "a fraud and a fake."

Earlier, the House endorsed Mr. Clinton's \$37 billion alternative on a 272-163 vote but under special rules it could also have chosen the deeper cuts of Mr. Penny and Mr. Kasich.

Later the House almost unanimously passed the overall bill on a 429-1 vote.

Mr. Clinton made every effort to win the vote, taken only a few hours before the House adjourned for the year, but the fight put him on notice that budget cuts are likely to be on the agenda when Congress meets in January.

Nonetheless, it was the third recent victory for Mr. Clinton, who got a much-needed boost by House approval last week of the North American Free Trade Agreement and Monday settled the American Airlines strike.

The House debate was marked by an unusually heated exchange between the sometimes excitable Kasich and the usually taciturn House budget committee chairman, Martin Olav Sabo of Minnesota.

## Britain cuts interest rates to 16-year-low

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain cut interest rates to a 16-year low Tuesday in a bid to accelerate economic recovery and offset expected tax rises in next week's budget.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke said the half percentage point cut to 5.5 per cent reflected strong signals of recovery from recession and the measures he planned in his Nov. 30 budget.

"Weighing up these factors, and taking full account of the measures I will announce in the budget on Nov. 30, I have decided that a 1/2 per cent cut in interest rates is warranted," said Mr. Clarke, appointed in May with a mandate from Prime Minister John Major to get the economy moving.

In a move seen by economists as signalling greater independence for the Bank of England, Mr. Clarke said in a statement that in future "the precise timing of interest rate changes will be a matter for the bank to decide."

The treasury said the chan-

cellor would still decide whether to change interest rates and by how much, but the bank had been given authority to pick the precise moment.

British interest rates are now the lowest in the European Community. They were last at 5.5 per cent in November 1977 and are barely half the level they were when Britain was forced out of the European Community currency grid 14 months ago.

Commercial banks followed suit by cutting their base lending rates but most in the crucial home-lending sector said they would wait for the budget to decide how far to cut their rates.

Officials ruled out any further rate cut next week saying Mr. Clarke was trying to send a "clear message" to markets not to expect further changes in monetary policy in the budget.

Economists interpreted that as signalling a tight budget with hefty tax increases to cap a forecast £50 billion (\$74 bil-

lion) 1994-95 budget deficit.

"This cut in rates is consistent with our view that the budget will usher in tax rises worth a net £2.0 billion (\$2.95 billion)," said Kevin Gardner at Warburg Securities.

Markets reacted positively but with enthusiasm tempered by the warning about a firm budget and no further cuts.

London stocks leapt higher but retreated a little by midday. The Financial Times-Stock Exchange index of 100 leading stocks was 10.4 points or 0.34 per cent higher at 3,081.0 points.

The pound sterling jumped more than half a German penny to 2.5237 marks as markets seized on the chances of recovery.

Mr. Clarke tried to head off any suggestions the rate cut was politically motivated by saying the Bank of England had fully concurred with the decision and had decided on the timing.

He said the cut was sensible and fully consistent with the

government's inflation target. Prime Minister John Major has struggled to deliver on his promise at a general election in April 1992 that recovery would begin the day after the Conservatives were re-elected.

Only now is Britain emerging from a two-year downturn on the back of historically low inflation of just 1.4 per cent, low wage growth and modest rises in retail sales and asset prices.

British industry welcomed the rate cut, which opposition politicians and business figures have demanded for months.

"This is a welcome move which is fully justified by the recent good news on inflation. It will help to sustain the recovery," said Howard Davies, director general of the Confederation of British Industry.

Meanwhile, Bank of England Governor Eddie George has warned that banks in Britain cannot expect automatic help if they get into trouble, even though the potential for problems is increasing.

## Ramos announces \$2.5b in investment pledges

WASHINGTON (R) — Philippine President Fidel Ramos said Monday that he had obtained \$2.5 billion in investment commitments from U.S. businesses as part of a tightening of economic, diplomatic and security relations.

Mr. Ramos said his talks with President Clinton at the White House "resulted in a new partnership" between the Philippines and the United States.

Mr. Clinton pledged stepped-up security and economic cooperation despite the closing

of two U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

At a news conference with Mr. Ramos after the White House meeting, Mr. Clinton said the new partnership would be based on investment ties, security cooperation and a shared dedication to democracy and human rights.

Mr. Ramos, at a later news conference of his own, reported headway in sending U.S. business the message that the Philippines "is back in business at the heart of Asia."

"We obtained commitments on investments worth some

\$2.5 billion in power and energy development, computer technology, electronics equipment and housing," he said.

He said Federal Express, the special delivery service, had concluded an agreement to make Subic Bay, formerly used by the United States as a sprawling navy base, the hub of its operations in the region.

Mr. Ramos promised cooperation with the United States on efforts to conclude quickly the current round of trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"President Clinton and I resolved to work even more closely together for the punctual and successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round and in general the further liberalisation of the world economy, even as we recognise the special requirements of the developing countries," he said.

Mr. Ramos met Mr. Clinton as part of a U.S. tour that has taken him to San Francisco, Chicago, Atlanta, New York, Houston, Seattle and Los Angeles.

He is trying to attract fresh

investment and renew ties that have been strained since the United States withdrew its armed forces out of the Philippines when it pulled out of Subic and Clark air base.

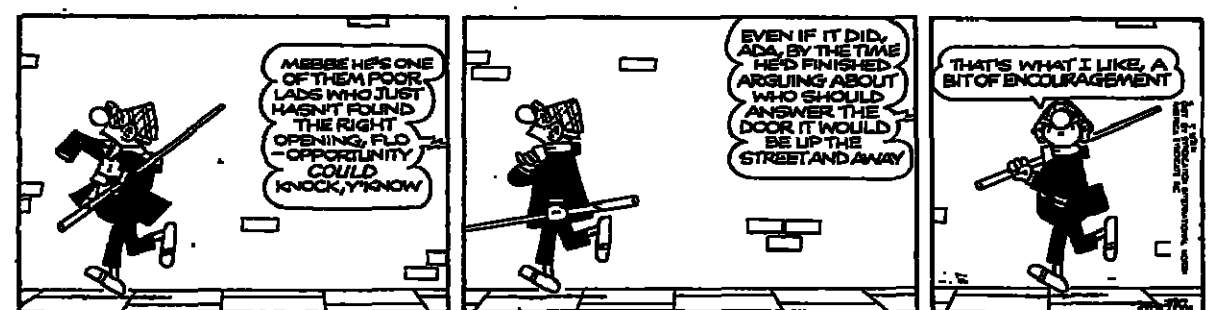
"This new partnership, we affirm, shall be based on the values that both Americans and Filipinos cherish deeply: The sanctity of human rights, the value of democracy and the efficacy of the free market," Mr. Ramos said.

He asked Mr. Clinton Monday to give broader access to U.S. markets for Philippine goods.

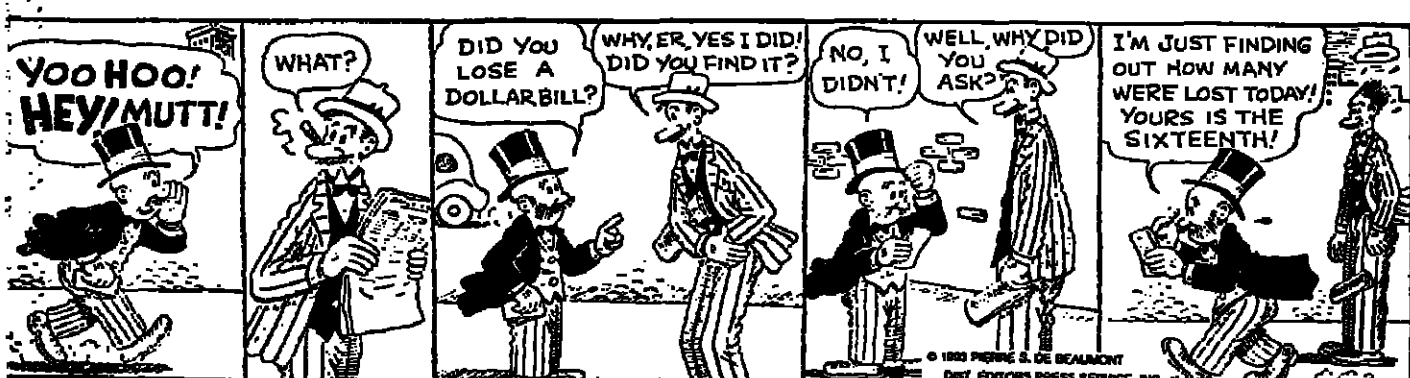
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



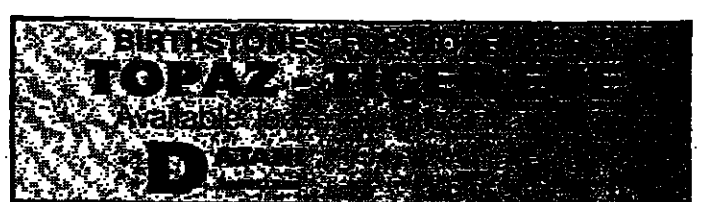
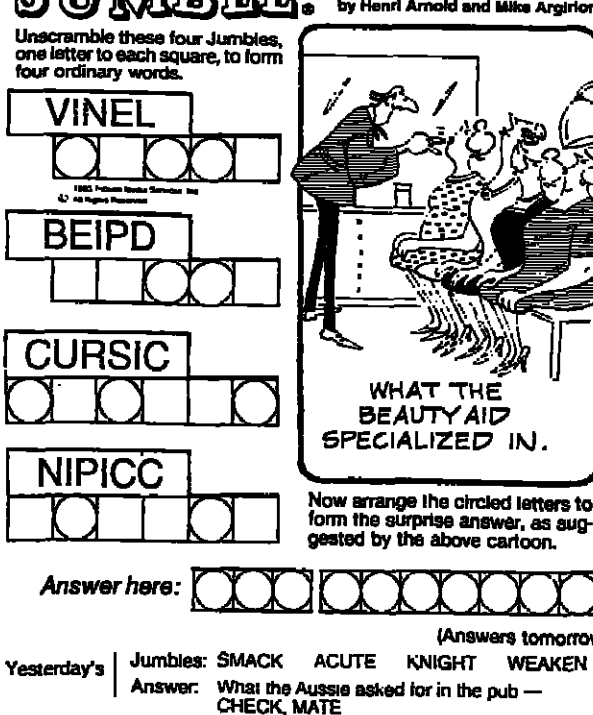
## Mutt'n'Jeff



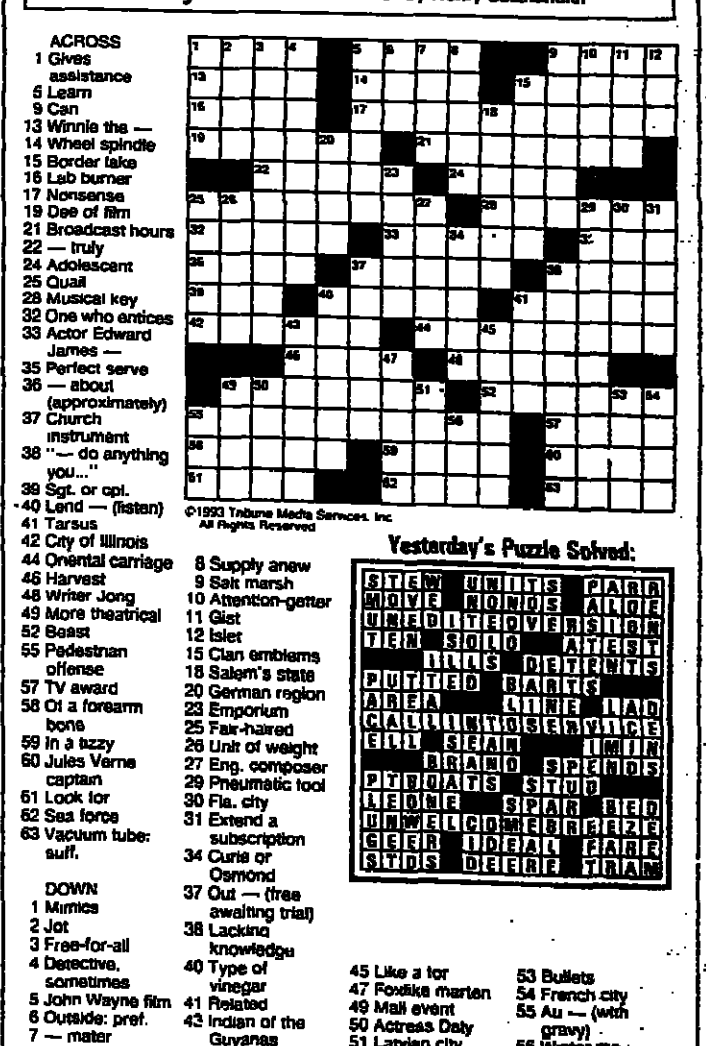
## THE BETTER HALF



## JUMBLE



## THE Daily Crossword









## Italy's premier seeks to avoid disaster after weekend poll rout

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi Tuesday battled to avoid disaster after the results of weekend local elections threatened to split his parliamentary majority and sink the 1994 budget.

As the lira sank to a record low against the German mark, Mr. Ciampi summoned an emergency meeting of the main parties in parliament and issued a statement saying most lawmakers backed his policy of price and monetary stability.

The immediate threat to Mr. Ciampi came from the Christian Democrats (DC), the mainstay of every Italian government since 1945, whose members of parliament hold the non-party premier to blame for Sunday's electoral humiliation.

DC leader Mino Martinazzoli issued a statement strongly denying that the party planned to pull its ministers out of the Ciampi government, but Mr. Martinazzoli himself is under huge criticism within the party following its rout at the polls.

Earlier, GR-2 state radio reported Interior Minister Nicola Mancino had argued the DC should back Mr. Ciampi on the budget, but immediately made it clear that the only reason it

was not walking out of the government was to avoid a lira crisis.

Before the DC denied plans to abandon Mr. Ciampi, the lira sank to 1005.25 against the German mark, dipping below the 1,000 barrier for the first time since the April government crisis that ended with the appointment of Mr. Ciampi as premier.

On the London Financial Futures Exchange, the key December Italian fixed-rate bond contract, the main barometer of investor confidence in Italy, at one point tumbled two full percentage points before recovering slightly.

Italian shares also took a battering. The Milan Bourse Index, which fell five per cent Monday, tumbled a further 2.7 per cent in early trading Tuesday, but later climbed back after the DC denial.

The DC's parliamentary party was due to meet to take a final stand on Mr. Ciampi's 1994 budget, whose passage is crucial for the calling of early general elections next year.

The state radio said that at a late-night meeting Monday to analyse the weekend's electoral disaster, some DC lawmakers wanted to vote against the

package of highly unpopular spending cuts.

Others wanted the DC to pull out of the government immediately, but support Mr. Ciampi on the budget, the radio said.

Mr. Ciampi himself will Wednesday meet the DC and the other three parties that support him in parliament to discuss the prospects for the 1994 budget. Four opposition parties on whose neutrality Mr. Ciampi can count will also be present.

The most important of these, the ex-Communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS) Monday vowed to go on backing Mr. Ciampi until the budget has been approved.

The other three opposition parties invited are the Northern League, the Republicans and the Greens. Mr. Ciampi's office said.

The DC is still the largest party in Italy's scandal-tainted parliament, but managed to pick up less than 12 per cent of the votes nationwide in Sunday's local polls — against 29.8 per cent in the April 1992 general elections.

Party leaders admitted it paid the price at the polls for DC's involvement in the mas-

sive corruption scandals uncovered in the last 21 months.

Four former DC premiers are under investigation on charges that range from mafia conspiracy to extortion. Many DC ex-ministers are also the target of graft probes by Italian magistrates.

In Sunday's vote for 428 city halls — the dress rehearsal for the next year's promised general elections — protest parties such as the neo-fascists and the Northern League made big gains at the expense of the DC.

RAI-Istate television said the single biggest party overall was the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement (MSI) with 14.4 per cent of the vote, closely followed by the PDS with 14.1 per cent.

This represents a dramatic advance for the neo-fascists, who now represent the main magnet for Italy's conservative voters. The MSI, long the pariah of Italian politics, picked up only 5.4 per cent in the 1992 general elections.

The DC and its three smaller allies in Mr. Ciampi's coalition scraped together 15 per cent of the national vote last Sunday — against 48.8 per cent in the April 1992 general elections.



Members of the Kennedy family — (left to right) for Edward Kennedy and the senator — Kneel House Representative Joseph Kennedy, his wife Monday at the eternal flame marking the grave of Elizabeth Kennedy, Victoria Reggie, wife of Sen. — the late President John F. Kennedy (AFP photo)

## Americans remember JFK on 30th anniversary of slaying

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Americans somberly marked the 30th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, declaring the Dallas site where he was gunned down a national monument and visiting his grave in Arlington National Cemetery.

Nellie Connolly, widow of Texas Governor John Connolly, unveiled a bronze plaque designating Dealey Plaza in downtown Dallas, Texas, as a national historic landmark.

The Connollys were riding in an open convertible limousine with Kennedy and his wife, Jackie, on Nov. 22, 1963, when gunfire rang out. Kennedy, 47, was fatally shot and the governor was seriously injured. Mr. Connolly died in June of this year.

"Thirty years ago, fate brought me here as an unwilling 'player in the most unforgettable, tragic drama of our time,'" Mrs. Connolly said, before thousands of onlookers. "Three decades later, we are gathered not to look back with grief but to look forward with hope," she said.

In Washington, Evelyn Lincoln, Kennedy's private secretary, arrived early at Arlington National Cemetery and was the first to put flowers on his

grave, as she has done every year since his death.

Several members of the Kennedy family and South Korean President Kim Young-Sam were also expected to visit the grave. The Kennedys, who prefer to commemorate his birthday, have declined all requests for interviews or comment.

Under a bright autumn sun, hundreds of people arrived in the morning at the cemetery just outside Washington in Arlington, Virginia.

The admirers, the curious, tourists, students, children and their parents climbed a lush green hill dotted by thousands of white gravestones.

After passing through a metal detector near the top of the slope, they stopped at the grave of the 35th president, indicated by simple granite 'squares' now framed in moss, with an eternal flame.

Some left bouquets of flowers, others took pictures and parents tried to explain to their offspring the significance of the young president and the national scars left by his assassination.

"He was one of the greatest presidents of our history," one 16-year-old boy said. "He represents a lot of great things like peace and love. It's horrible

that he's here."

A 59-year-old man said he came to salute "a legend, a great man," "intelligent" and "gifted with 'youthful vision'."

In Dublin, Jean Kennedy Smith, the U.S. ambassador, read parts of her slain brother's speeches at a memorial mass.

In Kennedy's hometown of Boston, Massachusetts, the only event planned for the occasion was a demonstration by a group of protesters seeking the release of U.S. government files related to the killing.

Recent polls show that nearly 80 per cent of Americans believe the government has not revealed the true findings of its investigation of the assassination.

Popular conspiracy theories contradict the official conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the attack.

President Bill Clinton said Monday he was "satisfied" with the government's conclusion that Oswald was the lone gunman.

His remark contradicted a comment he made during the 1992 presidential campaign when his running mate, Al Gore, said he did not agree with the government's conclusion, and Mr. Clinton said he agreed with him.

## Pretoria, ANC in more talks with rightists

CAPE TOWN (R) — The South African government planned an attempt against the odds Tuesday to win the support of the increasingly pugnacious right wing for post-apartheid democracy.

Chief government negotiator Roelf Meyer was due to meet Rowan Crojcie, the chairman of the right-wing Freedom Alliance, for up to three hours of talks late Tuesday, Meyer's spokesman Izak Retief said.

"Mr. Meyer is determined to leave no stone unturned to accommodate the aspirations of the Freedom Alliance, barring of course any compromise on the constitutional principles that have been agreed," he said.

A senior government source said there was little chance of an agreement that would satisfy the Alliance but President F.W. de Klerk would keep his team talking indefinitely.

In Johannesburg, ANC leader Nelson Mandela told a

business lunch that while right-wing whites posed the biggest threat to democracy in South Africa, they appeared more ready to compromise than conservative blacks.

"The National Party of Mr. De Klerk was once in exactly the same position as the position taken by (white right-wing leaders) General Constand Viljoen, Ferdi Hartzenberg and others," Mr. Mandela said.

He said it was through persuasion that the ANC got the National Party government to sit down at talks to "pull South Africa out of this mess."

"The greatest mistake we can make is to ignore the right wing because if there is any section of our people in this country who have the potential to cause the talks and the result that we have achieved, it is the right wing," Mr. Mandela said.

One of Mr. Meyer's aims in the Cape Town talks is to persuade the Freedom

Alliance to accept the dismantling of the 10 black homelands set up by Pretoria under its discredited policy of racial separation.

The Freedom Alliance groups the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party and Kwazulu Homeland of chief Mangosuthu Buthezi, the nominally independent homelands of Ciskei and Bophuthatswana and white separatists seeking a post-apartheid federation of self-governing states.

Time is running out for a compromise because early next-month parliament is expected to ratify an interim constitution ending three centuries of white domination. Parliament opened what is likely to be its last white session Monday.

Mr. Retief said a universal franchise and freedom for all South Africans to live where they choose would remain absolute conditions for any compromise with the right wing.

## Brady Bill blocked in U.S. Senate

WASHINGTON (R) — Senate opponents of the Brady Handgun Control Bill again blocked its passage Monday after it was approved by House-Senate negotiators.

Senate Republican leader Bob Dole, saying he was speaking for 18 other senators, refused to let the bill pass without a roll call vote. Because many senators have already left town assuming Congress would adjourn for the year this week, Democrats said they would call the Senate back next week. Sen. Dole accused Democrats who controlled the conference of acting in bad faith by going beyond the terms of a bi-partisan agreement on the provisions of the bill reached last Saturday with majority leader George Mitchell and other Democrats.

"We thought we acted in good faith," Sen. Dole said in an exchange with Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph Biden, a Delaware Democrat. Sen. Dole said two Democrats were among those objecting to the bill.

The bill would impose a national five-day waiting period for handgun sales so police could make background checks to see if gun buyers had

criminal records or mental problems.

The House of Representatives approved the Brady Handgun Control Bill early Tuesday.

The House approved the bill 238-187.

The Senate scheduled a Tuesday session in hopes of resolving the problem and quiting for the year.

But Senate Democratic leader Mitchell said he will call the Senate back next week if necessary to vote on the bill.

President Bill Clinton, speaking to reporters Monday night, said, "if for some reason the Senate does not pass the bill tonight, then I certainly strongly support Senator Mitchell's determination to bring the Senate back."

Mr. Clinton has promised to sign the bill as soon as he gets it. If it becomes law it would be the first gun control bill passed by Congress since 1968.

The bill had appeared dead for the year last Friday when the Senate failed to break a Republican-led filibuster. But Republicans relented Saturday after angry public reaction to the delay and allowed a modified bill to pass.

James Brady, who became a gun control advocate after he was shot and crippled during the 1981 attempted assassination of Ronald Reagan.

In a statement late Monday night, Sarah Brady blasted what she called Republican "obstructionism" saying, "This is gridlock at its worst."

The conference adopted House language to end the waiting period after five years whether or not a national instant computer background check system is ready to replace it. The Senate voted to abolish the waiting period after four years but would let the attorney general extend it for another year.

The conference also dropped Senate provisions that would end controls on World War I weapons by classifying them as antiques and let gun dealers sell guns anywhere in the country rather than only in their home states as current law requires.

Asked why the bill should pass now rather than when Congress returned in January, Ohio Democratic Senator Howard Metzenbaum said, "the longer you delay, the more guns there will be on the streets."

## British shows dominate TV Emmys

NEW YORK (R) — British entertainment and dramatic shows dominated the 21st annual International Emmy Awards Monday, taking or sharing four of the six awards presented before a crowd of more than 1,000 international broadcasters. An unprecedented 269 programmes from 35 countries were nominated for awards, although only entrants from nine countries were finalists. Unnatural Pursuits, a British Broadcasting Corp. production, won in the drama category and two British shows, the BBC's Absolutely Fabulous, and Drop The Dead Donkey, for the Channel 4 Independent Network, won in a tie for the popular arts category. The award show, hosted by television star Hal Linden, also featured special awards for two of Europe's leading television figures. Andre Rousselet, chairman of the Canal Plus pay television service of France, was presented the Directorate Award for Personal Executive Achievement. Richard Dunn, chief executive of Britain's Thames Television, was presented with the Founders Award for "the sum total of work recognised throughout the world."

## Richard Gere to visit Tibet

BEIJING (AFP) — American actor Richard Gere, an outspoken critic of China's human rights record in Tibet, is to visit the disputed region after leaving the southern city of Guangzhou, a members of the actor's entourage said Tuesday. Gere, currently in Guangzhou for the Golden Rooster and Hundred Flowers Film Festival, is to travel to Tibet before returning to the United States, the member said by telephone. The member refused to provide details about the itinerary or purpose of Gere's trip to Tibet, but a festival organiser said he was expected to leave Guangzhou Thursday or Friday. The U.S. embassy in Beijing confirmed the actor's visit but stressed that he had arranged the trip personally "as an ordinary American citizen." Gere has given vocal support to the Tibetan cause in recent years, meeting several times with Tibet's exiled spiritual leader the Dalai Lama who has lived in India since fleeing his homeland in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule. More controversially, Gere made a pointed televised statement when awarding a prize at the American Oscar ceremony earlier this year, calling on China's supreme leader Deng Xiaoping to end human rights abuses in the region.

## Jackson getting better — doctor

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Michael Jackson is feeling better after treatment for his painkiller addiction, but the elusive pop idol needs another two months of care, his doctor said in a statement released Monday. His doctor in London, Beauchamp Colclough, said Jackson's detoxification programme was now over, but that he needed as much as two months of further painkiller addiction treatment. Dr. Colclough said the news, released by Jackson's publicist Lee Solters, should "strongly refute any suggestion that Mr. Jackson is hiding out." Jackson, who has been sued by a 13-year-old boy for alleged sexual molestation, cancelled his Dangerous world tour on Nov. 12 and flew to Europe, sparking a massive media manhunt. Jackson said he needed addiction treatment, but his trip prompted speculation that he was avoiding returning to the United States, where police are conducting a criminal probe in connection with the molestation allegations.

## Jackson sued by former guards

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — Five former security guards filed a lawsuit against Michael Jackson, claiming the superstar fired them because they knew too much about his alleged activities with young boys. The lawsuit filed Monday added to Jackson's woes on the eve of a superior court hearing scheduled for Tuesday on allegations he molested a 13-year-old boy. Jackson's lawyers asked the judge to delay the boy's lawsuit for six years, when the statute of limitations expires. The entertainer maintains the allegations stem from a failed \$20 million extortion attempt by the boy's father, a dentist and aspiring screenwriter. Jackson's lawyer, Bertram Fields, also denied the guards' allegations. Jackson has not been charged with any crime. Police are investigating the 13-year-old's allegations.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Spain interior minister quits

MADRID (AFP) — Spain's Interior Minister Jose Luis Corcuera said Tuesday his resignation over a decision by the Constitutional Court to throw out a key provision of a tough new security law had been accepted by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. The minister, keeping a promise to step down if the court ruled against him, immediately offered his resignation last Thursday when the court said it could not uphold his legislation letting the police search households without a warrant in cases of suspected drug traffickers. Mr. Corcuera, in office since 1988, is regarded as among the strongest of the executive of the ruling Socialist Party. He had a meeting with Mr. Gonzalez Sunday. The prime minister said beforehand he saw no reason to accept the resignation of his "good minister." Mr. Corcuera Tuesday said he fully accepted the court's rulings, and noted most of his legislation had been passed as in keeping with the constitution. If he had failed to resign, that would have been bad for Spanish political life at a time when people were generalised unfairly about the calibre of their politicians, he said.

### U.N. general heads Angola talks

LUSAKA (R) — A U.N. army general trying to force the pace of negotiations to end Angola's brutal civil war met Tuesday with rebel and government military chiefs. General Christus Garaba, seconded to the United Nations from Nigeria, wants to breathe new life into the slow-moving talks and conclude a ceasefire before Christmas, diplomats said. "His task is daunting and there is little time left," one source said of the efforts to end the 18-year-long civil war that has killed tens of thousands of people and left the nation on the brink of famine. U.S. President Bill Clinton is reported to have urged Angolan negotiators to have a truce in place by Dec. 25. Journalists covering the closed-door peace talks saw Gen. Garaba and the rival Angolan teams enter Lusaka's Mulungushi Conference Centre, venue of the talks, shortly after 9 a.m. (0700 GMT).

### CIA: Cuba crisis may be imminent

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has warned President Bill Clinton he could face a major crisis in Cuba at any time, the Wall Street Journal reported. "Tensions and uncertainties... are so acute that significant miscalculations by (Cuban leader Fidel) Castro, a deterioration of his health or plotting in the military could provoke regime-threatening instability at virtually any time," the newspaper quoted a national intelligence estimate issued in August. The report said Mr. Castro can be expected to use "whatever force necessary" to hold on to power "even at the risk of a blood bath," according to the journal. Even if Mr. Castro is overthrown, the CIA said, "the new era will be marked by retaliatory and other violence." It predicted that serious instability on the island would cause between 20,000 and 80,000 Cubans to flee to the United States, spurring demands for U.S. military intervention, the Journal said.

### Chinese president arrives in Brazil

BRASILIA (R) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin arrived in Brazil late Monday for a six-day visit that will include the signing of an accord on cooperation in space. Mr. Jiang, who came in from Cuba, was greeted by Foreign Minister Celso Amorim and left the airport without speaking to reporters. He had been in Seattle for a summit meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Community before leaving for Cuba and Brazil. Mr. Jiang and President Itamar Franco Tuesday will witness the signing of a Brazil-China agreement on cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space. Both countries have agreed to cooperate in a \$200 million project to build two research satellites to be launched in 1996.

### 13 die in Guatemala air crash

PALENCIA, Guatemala (AP) — A plane carrying American sightseers and a pair of Mormon Church officials crashed into a mountain near Guatemala's capital, killing all 13 people on board. The Civil Aeronautics Board said those killed in Sunday's crash included three U.S. citizens, three Germans and two Guatemalans, in addition to the pilot, the Canadian Foreign Ministry said one of the victims was Canadian, but gave no additional details. Others aboard were not identified. In Salt Lake City, the Mormon Church said that Jose Jimenez, 46, president of the faith's Guatemala City North Mission, and Julio Afre, a counsellor to the mission's presidency, were among the dead. The pair was returning to Guatemala City from church business in another part of the country. The church said Mr. Jimenez was a native of San Juan, Puerto Rico and Mr. Afre was a Guatemalan.

### U.K. judge sums up Bulger case

PRESTON, England (AFP) — The judge in the trial of two 11-year-olds accused of murdering two-year-old James Bulger told jurors Tuesday that if the boys intended to kill the toddler they would both be guilty, regardless of which one actually struck the fatal blow. "Quite simply, the question is, 'are you sure they were in it together,'" Judge Michael Morland said in summing up one of Britain's most notorious murder trials in decades. The boys, who were 10 at the time, are accused of snatching James from a Liverpool-area shopping centre in a moment when his mother's back was turned. They allegedly dragged, pushed and prodded him four kilometres (two-and-a-half miles) to a lonely stretch of railroad track where they bashed his head in with bricks, sticks and an iron bar. Then, according to the charges, they placed his body on the tracks, where he was cut in two by a train. "It would not matter which defendant actually first took James Bulger's hand," said the judge. "If they were in it together, if both... had agreed that James Bulger should be killed or suffer really serious injury, it wouldn't matter who inflicted the fatal blows." "If you are in doubt that they were in it together on any of the charges," said Judge Morland, you must acquit both of them of that charge."



## Taylor quits in wake of England World Cup failure

LONDON (AFP) — Graham Taylor resigned as England manager Tuesday over the country's failure to reach next year's World Cup finals in America.

Taylor informed Football Association chief executive Graham Kelly at the end of last week that he was thinking of quitting after more than three years in the job.

Kelly said he had told him to think it over for a few days, but Taylor's mind was made up and the official resignation speech was given to the FA hierarchy at lunchtime Tuesday.

England's hopes of qualifying for the finals took a devastating blow after they were beaten 2-0 in Holland in October. But they were finally edged out when Holland beat Poland last week.

Taylor's team selections and managerial style have come in for continual criticism over the past year.

In the wake of the failure, Taylor had indicated his determination to carry on until

his contract ends in June. And Kelly said: "I'm very upset to see him go, especially under these circumstances."

"The first indication that Graham was going to resign came before the weekend. He said that he wanted to sit down and talk with the FA about it. That happened today."

Kelly, FA Chairman Sir Bert Millichip and Peter Swales, chairman of the FA International Committee, all faced Taylor. They accepted his resignation, Kelly announced.

Taylor's assistant Lawrie McMenamy, who looked after the under-21 team, also resigned.

The two took over after Bobby Robson resigned following the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy when England reached the semifinals.

Taylor said, "If we did not qualify for the World Cup finals it was always my intention to offer my resignation from the job as England manager."

Under Taylor, England won 17 out of 37 matches played.

But he seldom earned praise and was described as "a turnip" by one tabloid newspaper.

Taylor said "I met with Graham Kelly Thursday of last week and today with the Chairman of the Football Association, the chairman of the International Committee and the chief executive, when I formally tendered my resignation."

"I feel this is the appropriate course of action in the circumstances."

"No one can grasp the depths of my personal disappointment at not qualifying," he added.

"I do, however, naturally wish my successor the best of good fortune in England's endeavours to win the 1996 European Championship."

The FA's International Committee meets next Tuesday. It was expected to decide on Taylor's future but will now have to think about his successor.

Leeds United manager Howard Wilkinson and Steve Coppell, currently without a league team, are the bookmakers' favourites.

They are quoted at 7-2 by William Hill with Queen's Park Rangers boss Gerry Francis 5-1, Kevin Keegan 8-1, Ron Atkinson 10-1, Trevor Francis, George Graham, Glenn Hoddie and Mike Walker 12-1, Joe Royle and Ray Wilkins 16-1.

Kelly has already said that he would like the FA to introduce a two-tier managerial system along German lines.

Taylor was thought to be keen to stay at Lancaster Gate and work with a younger coach.

However, he was criticised Monday by Charles Hughes, the FA's director of coaching, for a constant changing of tactics and team selection.

Kelly made it clear that Hughes's comments had no bearing on Taylor's decision.

Taylor was criticised Monday by the English FA's director of coaching for his failure to steer England into next year's World Cup finals.

Charles Hughes, who defended his own much-criticised role in the national game, said: "Positive thinking and single-

mindedness of purpose is the hallmark of international management — international managers have to make their minds up."

"If we want to improve our performance at senior international level, apart from technique — which hopefully we're going to do something about — there are two things which could improve our chances."

"The first is to narrow our selection down drastically. An international manager will choose 60 players or so over about 30 games, whereas at a club they will use 18 to 20 or even less for the same number of games."

"That gives one a certain continuity in the team. The more they play together the slicker they'll be."

Taylor, who used 59 players in his 38 games in charge of the England team, experimenting where Hughes believes he should have chosen fewer players and stuck by them.

Hughes also took Taylor to task for changing his tactics too often.

## Cruyff tells Barcelona losers: Win or leave

PARIS (AFP) — Johan Cruyff has delivered a financial rocket to warn his Barcelona players against becoming Champion League chumps Wednesday.

The Spanish team's Dutch coach fined the whole team after an embarrassing home league defeat at the weekend. Cruyff was furious after the 1-0 loss to bottom of the league Llerida deflated hopes of a winning start to the next stage of the European Champions Cup against Galatasaray of Turkey.

"It is hard to say who played worst," Cruyff said after watching the defeat in which Brazilian star Romario missed a penalty.

"It just means that some players will not be there at the end of the season," he added in an ominous warning.

When defending the team last season, Cruyff's players were beaten in the second round to CSKA Moscow. And they suffered a first round scare this year having to come back from 3-1 down against Dynamo Moscow.

The guarantee of \$3 billion in television and advertising money for the Champions League has already spurred the Turks, who many people have dismissed as the easiest in the four team group. But they topped English title holders Manchester United in the third round, even if it was only on away goals.

The promise of \$30,000 for each point secured will only further boost Galatasaray on their home ground in Istanbul.

Galatasaray called in former boss Kalli Feldkap, now in Germany, as a special advisor in the match against United. He gave crucial advice on the strengths and weaknesses of the English champions, and such planning could gain them further success.

Current coach Reiner Holland said: "I am sure we will be victorious against Monaco and Spartak Moscow at home, and get a point from Barcelona in Istanbul."

As Monaco and Spartak Moscow are the other teams competing for the group's two places in the semi-finals. They play in the Mediterranean principality's Louis II Stadium.

Monaco coach Arsene Wenger reckons it will be a three-way fight for the runners-up spot in Group A to make the semifinals behind Barcelona.

Manager Mike Walker went to Italy Sunday for a last look at Inter. He said: "I don't rate them any better than Bayern. Who were the second seeds. They have quality players, and it will be tough. We have no illusions about that."

"We have to take the same attitude as we had against Bayern, when everyone properly we would have a chance."

Walker already knows that Efan Ekoku and Mark Robins will not be ready to return from injury. A hamstring strain which keeps Ruel Fitts, his major attacking inspiration who scored his seventh goal of the season Saturday.

UEFA Cup holders Juventus host Tottenham and Bobby Robson's Sporting Lisbon entertain SV Casino Salzburg of Austria.

The former England manager is optimistic of a good result. "We have a very strong midfield. Paul Sousa, who we signed last summer from Benfica, is fantastic and blends perfectly with Bulgarian Balakov and the Russian Borussias."

Dortmund travel to Denmark's FC Breensby and there is one UEFA Cup tie Thursday between Belgium's Mechelen and Italy's Cagliari.

On Tuesday, Eintracht Frankfurt will be looking to put two consecutive 3-0 defeats in the German League behind them at home to Deportivo La Coruna.

In another third round tie, Karlsruhe will hope to repeat their 7-0 league thrashing of Spanish league leaders Valencia in the last round, when they visit Bordeaux.

Portugal's FC Boavista, who had the distinction of being the first to beat an Italian side in Europe this season, have a UEFA Cup tie at OFI Crete Tuesday. Lazio were Boavista's hapless victims.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Donkov wins UEFA reprieve

BERN (AFP) — Bulgarian Georgi Donkov had his five-year ban for spitting at a touch judge slashed to two years by UEFA here Tuesday. The Botev Plovdiv player was banned following a home match against Greek side Olympiakos on Sept. 29. Donkov remains banned from club and international football until Dec. 31, 1995. A UEFA spokesman said: "The fact that he is at the start of a promising international career, that he admits he behaved badly and regrets it were decisive factors in the ban being cut."

### Maradona fails to inspire Newell's

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Diego Maradona was unable to inspire his club side Newell's Old Boys who slumped to their fourth defeat in eight Argentine Championship matches at the weekend. Maradona had a quiet match and Newell's were beaten 1-0 by Belgrano with a 49th-minute goal by Claudio Rivadero. The result kept them one place off the bottom of the table with just one win to their credit. Their consolation is that they have three games in hand over most of the teams above them. River Plate lead the championship after beating former leaders Lanus 2-0, their fifth consecutive win.

### China wants 1996 Grand Prix

PARIS (AFP) — China has joined the list of countries wanting to host a Formula One Grand Prix. Sources within motor racing's hierarchy said Monday that China could get a race in 1996. Qatar is already in line to stage a Formula One event that year and has been visited by Formula One Constructors Association chief Bernie Ecclestone. After the failure of its bid for the 2000 Olympics, Chinese sports officials have expressed an increasing desire to be seen in high profile events, the sources said. "Formula One gets worldwide coverage, like the Olympics and World Cup football. Now it seems they are putting the same effort applied to the 2000 games into organising a Formula One event. International Automobile Federation President Max Mosley has been invited to lay the first stone for a new track at Zhuhai near Macau. Mosley was at the Formula Three Grand Prix in Macau at the weekend. Other tracks already exist near Beijing and in Guangdong province."

### ITF to brush up Davis Cup image

LONDON (AFP) — The International Tennis Federation (ITF) has revealed its blueprint to inject new life into the Davis Cup. Under the new plan, the men's team tennis contest could be turned into a World Championship of eight or 16 nations. Within the championships would be groups of around four nations who would play each other once. The top two at the end of the round robin contest would dispute the final. Teams in the Davis Cup World Group currently play on a knock out basis. Changes will be discussed at the final of this year's Davis Cup between Australia and Germany in Dusseldorf from Dec. 3-5. Representatives of all current World Group nations will be present and many feel that the current format has become stale. ITF officials say the new format would mean each country getting at least three matches a year — with at least one match at home — and knowing when they would be at the start of the season.

### Imprisoned diver to be freed

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — Former diver Bruce Kimball, convicted of manslaughter while drunk diving five years ago, will be released from prison Wednesday after serving less than five years of a 17-year sentence. Kimball drove into a crowd of about 35 teenagers parked along a dead-end street at night. Two were killed and two others had several operations for multiple leg fractures while another four were hospitalised. Less than three weeks after the incident, Kimball attempted to qualify for the 1988 U.S. Olympic team. Friends of the victims attended the U.S. trials at Indianapolis, glaring at Kimball from the stands as they watched him fail.

### Barkley honoured, investigated

PONENIX, Arizona (AFP) — Charles Barkley was named the National Basketball Association's (NBA) player of the week even as police found witnesses to say the 1992 Olympian did not punch a man in the mouth. Barkley averaged 28.3 points and 15.3 rebounds in three victories by the Phoenix Suns. He remains among The NBA's top three players in scoring, rebounding and steals. Barkley, last year's NBA most valuable player, had 28 points and 20 rebounds in beating Cleveland and 36 points plus 13 rebounds in defeating Golden State. Meanwhile, police here interviewed seven witnesses of an incident in which Barkley is accused of punching 36-year-old vitamin salesman Edward Durham in the mouth. Barkley admits arguing with Durham Thursday but denies striking the blow. A police officer said two of Barkley's friends plus five other people in the bar at the time of the scuffle supported Barkley's version of the story.

### Fernandez to join McEnroe in Hopman Cup

SYDNEY (R) — Mary Joe Fernandez will replace the injured Jennifer Capriati as John McEnroe's partner in the American team for the Hopman Cup mixed team tennis event in Perth at the end of next month tournament officials said Tuesday. Fernandez, 22, replaces Capriati, 17, who pulled out of the annual event earlier this month with an elbow injury which has kept her sidelined since the U.S. Open in September. Fernandez, ranked seventh in the world, is also making her comeback after abdominal surgery two months ago. The U.S. duo are second seeds behind Czech pair Petr Korda and Jana Novotna. Germany are the defending champions.

### Chavez, Norris and Nunn to defend titles

NEW YORK (AP) — Boxers Julio Cesar Chavez, Terry Norris and Michael Nunn will defend world titles N Dec. 18 at Pueblo, Mexico. The tripleheader came about because of a change in the date of Chavez' defence against Andy Holligan of Britain and a site change in scheduled defences by Norris and Nunn. John Solberg, a spokesman for promoter Don King, said Monday. Chavez, of Mexico, originally was scheduled to defend the WBC super lightweight championship against Holligan on Dec. 11 at Pueblo. Norris and Nunn originally were set for title defences on Dec. 18 at Charlotte, N.C. Norris, the WBC super welterweight champion, will fight Simon Brown, a former welterweight champion, and Nunn will defend the WBA super middleweight title against Merqui Sosa.

## Krabbe fight 'largely for money not sport'

BONN (R) — German sprinter Katrin Krabbe's fight against a two-year doping ban is about money rather than a return to the track, athletic sources said Monday.

Krabbe's only chance of beating the International Amateur Athletic Federation's (IAAF) two-year ban, which was confirmed by their arbitration panel at the weekend, is to take the case to a German civil court and try to sue for damages.

German Athletics Federation (DLV) chief Jan Kern confirmed that the DLV had to follow the IAAF panel's decision in Monaco to keep Krabbe and her teammates Grit Breuer and Manuel Derr off the track until August 1995. "We have no choice but to follow the IAAF panel's decision," Kern said.

The IAAF banned Krabbe, the 1991 world 100 and 200 metres champion, and her fellow former east Germans for two years last August for bringing to sport into disrepute

after they admitted to taking the banned drug Clenbuterol. The DLV, which had already banned Krabbe for one year before the IAAF attached on an extra two years, admits the new ban would be regarded as too harsh in German law and the trio would probably win a court injunction to run domestically.

But whatever a German court might rule, the athletes have no real chance of competing in lucrative international meetings until the end of 1995.

Leading German sprinters confirmed Monday that they also would not risk being banned under IAAF rules by running against any of the trio if they did win an injunction to run on German soil.

Although Krabbe, who was 24 Monday, said Sunday she wanted to return to sprinting, athletics sources believe her main aim now is to force the issue to court so that she can claim damages against the IAAF for loss of earnings.

## China is still developing

MANILA (AFP) — China, on an athletics world record rampage and flush with international success in other sports, still has some way to go before it can challenge for Olympic supremacy, a senior Chinese sports official said here Tuesday.

"It is true that we have achieved good results. However, our standards are still developing and are still quite a distance from the best," Lou Dapeng, sports director of the Beijing bid committee narrowly beaten by Sydney for the 2000 Olympics, said Tuesday.

"Sooner or later a Chinese city will make a second bid," he added, although he said China had yet to decide on whether to bid for the 2004 games.

China followed up their three gold medals at the World Athletic Championships in Stuttgart with four world records in their national games in Beijing and a clean sweep of the World Cup Marathon — all achieved by the same handful of women.

They also won six out of nine women's titles and one men's gold medal at last week's World Weightlifting Championships in Melbourne.

"We hope to be among the top few nations," in the Atlanta Games in 1996 and Sydney four years later, added Lou, vice-president of China's track and field Association and vice president of the Asian Amateur Athletic Association (AAAA).

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**GOREN BRIDGE**

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI  
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THINK BEFORE YOU LEAD

Both vulnerable. North deals.

**NORTH**  
A 10 8 3  
A K  
8 5 2  
K J 10 2

**EAST**  
Q 6 5 2  
8 4  
A 9 7 6  
Q J 10 6  
8 4 3 A Q

**SOUTH**  
K 9  
Q J 10 7 5 3  
K 4  
9 7 5

The bidding:  
North East  
1 NT Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead?  
Most textbooks contain a table of opening leads, but they tell only part of the story. While the compilation does give you the right card to pick from specific holdings, quite often you do not have the sort of combination shown and have to select the best suit as well the right card to lead. Consider West's dilemma on this deal.

The auction is straightforward.

<p><b>T O D A Y</b></p> <p>Cinema Tel.: 634144</p> <p><b>PHILADELPHIA</b></p> <p><b>JURASSIC PARK</b></p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 677420</p> <p><b>CONCORD</b></p> <p><b>CONCORD '1'</b></p> <p>Harrison Ford — in <b>The Fugitive</b></p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30</p> <p><b>CONCORD '2'</b></p> <p><b>DRACULA</b></p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6, 8:15, 10:15</p>	<p>Cinema Tel.: 699238</p> <p><b>PLAZA</b></p> <p><b>SKI SCHOOL</b></p> <p>Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30</p>	<p>Tel.: 675571</p> <p><b>Nabil Al Mashini Theatre</b></p> <p>presents a play entitled: <b>Al Iim Nuron</b></p> <p>A popular political comedy Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalaleh, Hassan Al Shear, Foad Shomali in addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day</p>	<p>Nabil &amp; Hisham's Tel.: 6251551</p> <p><b>AHLAN THEATRE</b></p> <p>The political comedy <b>WELCOME ARAB SUMMIT</b></p> <p>Daily 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes Saturday and Sunday English synopsis available</p>
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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## British Harrier jet crashes in north Iraq

LONDON (AFP) — A British air force Harrier jump jet crashed in northern Iraq Tuesday but the pilot managed to eject and was only slightly hurt, the defence ministry said. The ministry said the pilot was rescued and was being treated at his base at Incirlik in southern Turkey. A spokesman said the crash was caused by a mechanical problem. The accident happened during a routine mission Tuesday morning in a mountainous region of Iraqi Kurdistan. U.S. troops went to the pilot's aid, after the crash about 150 kilometres inside northern Iraq from the Turkish border, and took him back to Incirlik. The ministry said ground troops would be sent to recover the wreckage of the jet.

## Nearly 70,000 immigrants arrive in Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Almost 70,000 immigrants have settled in Israel so far this year, the Jewish Agency announced Tuesday. All but 11,500 of the 68,913 newcomers came from the ex-Soviet Union, said Simcha Diniz, chairman of the para-governmental body which looks after new immigrants. The agency expects a total of 80,000 people to have arrived by the end of 1993 compared with 76,500 last year.

## Bomb blast kills Israeli-backed militiaman

MARJAYOUN (R) — A roadside bomb killed a soldier of the Israeli-backed militia in South Lebanon on Tuesday, security sources said. The off-duty South Lebanon Army militiaman was driving a tractor when the bomb planted by guerrillas exploded in the Rihan area on the edge of the Israeli-occupied zone. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

## Lebanon to step up AIDS campaign

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon said Tuesday it was stepping up its AIDS awareness campaign in schools, its tourism industry and the media. An official report said there were 203 cases of HIV infected and AIDS patients in Lebanon but Health Minister Marwan Hamadeh Hamadeh told a news conference an estimated 200 other cases had not been reported. Health Ministry sources said 20 AIDS patients have died since the virus first appeared in Lebanon in 1984.

## Suharto begins visit to Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — President Suharto of Indonesia arrived in Iran on Tuesday on a three-day visit aimed at boosting trade and strengthening bilateral ties. Mr. Suharto, the first Indonesian head of state to visit Iran since the 1979 revolution, was greeted at the airport by his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. Mr. Suharto, 72, was accompanied by his wife, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and a delegation.

## 37 dead in Turkish clashes

ANKARA (AFP) — Thirty-seven people died within a 24-hour period during clashes between government troops and separatist Kurdish rebels in the eastern and southeastern breakaway regions of Turkey, authorities said Tuesday. They said 24 rebels were killed by the army during raids in the separatist stronghold of Diyarbakir. Ten civilians and three police officers were also killed by rebels from the Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) in the eastern region of Bingol.

## Libya says no plan to expel Thais

BANGKOK (R) — Libya's ambassador to Thailand said Tuesday his country had no plans to expel thousands of Thai workers and called for an improvement in relations between the two countries. "The reports on the plight of Thai workers were the result of misunderstanding," Mohammad Ali Mohammad Haneish told reporters after talks at the Thai Foreign Ministry. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the ambassador had suggested that to prevent further misunderstandings the two countries should exchange resident ambassadors. Mr. Haneish is accredited to Thailand but lives in Kuala Lumpur.

## Syria praises confirmation of boycott

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria praised the Arab League for upholding a boycott of Israel and said Tuesday there was no reason to lift the ban in place for more than 40 years. "While welcoming the Arab decision, we have to point out that ending the Arab boycott of Israel is closely linked to Israel's complete withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands," the official daily Tishreen said.

## Libya has 'evidence' U.S. elections rigged

TUNIS (R) — Libya said on Tuesday it had evidence that U.S. President Bill Clinton rigged his election. It will reveal the evidence and create "a tremor in America" if the Voice of America continues to attack Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, the official news agency JANA said. The agency said it was responding to a Voice of America commentary which treated Colonel Qadhafi like just another autocrat. In theory Col. Qadhafi has no executive power and his only title is leader of the revolution.

## Rabin, Arafat to speak to European Parliament

BRUSSELS (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will visit the European Parliament separately next month, parliament officials said Tuesday. The 518-member assembly has invited Mr. Rabin to speak during a special plenary session here Dec. 1. He also is scheduled to meet Jacques Delors, president of the EC's executive commission. Mr. Arafat will visit the assembly Dec. 13 during its monthly plenary session in Strasbourg, France.

## Peres on first top-level Greek visit

ATHENS (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres arrived here Tuesday for a 36-hour visit to Greece which will overlap with an official visit by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, fueling expectations that they might meet. The Peres visit, arranged at the last minute, is unprecedented at such a senior level in Greek-Israeli relations. Greece was the last of the European Community (EC) countries to recognise Israel, in May 1980. The visit is seen as an opportunity for an exchange of views as Greece prepares to take over the rotating EC presidency in January.

## Algerian authorities round up 300

ALGIERS (AFP) — Security forces took in 300 people for questioning at Annaba, in eastern Algeria, on Monday, in a combined five-hour police and army operation, the daily Al Watan reported Tuesday. Two helicopters overflew the city during the operation, similar to moves against Islamic fundamentalist groups in other major Algerian cities since the beginning of November.

## 'No threat to Israel's existence' — Barak

TEL AVIV (AFP) — No power in the Middle East can endanger Israel's existence, armed forces chief Ehud Barak said here Tuesday. "The struggle against terrorism is difficult, but terrorism does not pose a threat to Israel's existence," General Barak told his Polish counterpart Tadeusz Wilecki. "No power in the Middle East is capable of putting Israel's existence in danger," Gen. Barak said.

## U.N. Iraq blockade stops Israeli ship

TEL AVIV (R) — A U.S. Navy ship enforcing a U.N. blockade against Iraq stopped an Israeli freighter on Tuesday in the Red Sea to check if it was breaking the embargo, a shipping company said. Zim Lines spokeswoman Rivka Benveniste said it was the first time U.N. inspectors stopped an Israeli freighter on suspicions of aiding Iraq since a U.N.-brokered understanding exempting Israeli ships from the embargo earlier this year.

## Israel, PLO resume secret talks

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) here Tuesday began their third round of secret talks on arrangements for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

The talks were focused on "security problems," Palestinian officials said, with discussions on the transfer to a civilian Palestinian administration due to begin in the Egyptian town of El Arish in the Sinai peninsula on Wednesday.

Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, said Tuesday that "disagreements" remained over "security arrangements and the problem of crossing points" between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, and between the Jericho area and Jordan.

Under the terms of the Israeli-PLO autonomy accord signed on Sept. 13, Israel is to start withdrawing its troops from the Gaza Strip and Jericho on Dec. 13.

Palestinian chief negotiator Nabil Shaath said "major progress" was made at the last round of talks.

However, two major problems remained unresolved, apart from control of the border posts: The geographical limits of the Jericho area, the exact boundaries of Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and the 11,400 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

Both sides have stressed their determination to keep to the agenda outlined in the limited autonomy accord.

The committee discussing the planned withdrawal hit an impasse in Egypt's Red Sea resort of Taba three weeks ago, when the PLO walked out of the talks, accusing Israel of proposing a redeployment rather than a withdrawal.

The negotiators then resumed the talks in secret in Cairo to avoid the glare of publicity.

Dr. Shaath said the negotiators had already reached agreement on three contentious points: Control over land routes, the border between Israel and the Gaza Strip and territorial waters off the strip.

Mr. Abbas said that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat was planning to visit Egypt for talks with President Hosni Mubarak next week.

Mr. Abbas told reporters before leaving Cairo for PLO headquarters in Tunis that no arrangements had been made for Mr. Arafat to meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin during the visit.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin first met at the ceremony to sign the outline peace agreement and they suppressed their personal dislike of each other to hold a working meeting in Cairo on Oct. 6.

They are expected to meet again sometime during the next three weeks to resolve any

problems that cannot be settled by the negotiators.

Mr. Abbas spent three days in Egypt talking to Mr. Mubarak and his advisors about the PLO-Israel talks and tensions within the PLO about Arafat's management of the organisation.

Palestinian sources say Mr. Abbas and other senior officials who have supported Mr. Arafat throughout two years of negotiations with Israel are concerned that he is not sharing decision-making at a crucial time when the PLO must transform itself from a revolutionary movement into a government.

## Police arrive

The first Palestinian police officers trained in Egypt arrived back in Gaza Tuesday, three weeks before they are to start taking up some duties under the autonomy plan.

Dressed in snappy blue shirts and gray uniforms, the men crossed into the occupied Gaza Strip here from Egypt a day after their formal graduation from the Egypt's police academy.

The 22 men were trained for two months to serve as bodyguards for Palestinian officials.

Security is expected to be a key problem for PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat as he takes control of the Gaza Strip between December and next

April. Three moderate PLO officials have been assassinated since the agreement was signed Sept. 13, and opponents have vowed to continue attacks on settlers and other Israeli targets to try to sink the plan.

Palestinian sources in Tunis said the PLO had named General Nasr Yusef and two other officers from the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) to run the 15,000-strong Palestinian force.

Thousands of men from the PLA, which consists of Palestinian units serving in Arab armies, are assembling in Egypt and Jordan in readiness for the take-over.

The officer named to run the police in Gaza visited the overcrowded and poverty-stricken area for the first time on Monday to inspect army camps and Israeli civil administration offices that his force might take over.

The success of the PLO-Israel talks is opening the way for the United States to make a new attempt to make progress between Israel and Syria. An Israeli-Syrian peace deal would do most to ensure a lasting and comprehensive Arab-Israeli settlement.

## Christopher to meet Arafat

Mr. Christopher will visit Tunisia next month for talks with Mr. Arafat on the Middle East peace process, PLO and

diplomatic sources said.

Mr. Christopher would be by far the highest-level U.S. official to visit the PLO headquarters or meet with Mr. Arafat there.

The sources said Mr. Christopher was scheduled to visit PLO headquarters during his Middle East tour in early December.

Diplomats said Mr. Christopher's discussions with Mr. Arafat would focus on the PLO-Israel self-rule talks and preparations by the Palestinians to take over authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

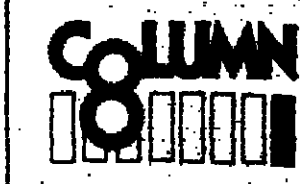
But they could not determine the exact date of Mr. Christopher's meeting with Mr. Arafat.

## Meetings on economic policy

Israeli and Palestinian representatives Tuesday began a second round of talks in Paris on how to run the economy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho after the Israeli pullout.

Nearly two dozen representatives sat down at a Paris hotel Tuesday afternoon for meetings scheduled to run until Thursday, said Israeli diplomatic officials.

No agenda was given, but tax-raising powers have been among the issues. In the first round of talks last week, negotiators agreed to the right of the Palestinians to set economic priorities and make their own economic decisions.



## French film wins prize in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — The French film "Un Deux Trois Soleil", directed by Bertrand Blier, was awarded the Bronze Horse Prize for Best Film at the just-concluded Fourth International Stockholm Film Festival. Italian actor Marcello Mastroianni won the prize for best male lead in the same film about life in a present-day French suburb. The newly established 10,000 kronor (\$12,500) prize for best script, the Montblanc Culture Prize Sweden, went to Britain's Mike Leigh, who wrote and directed the film Naked, which won the prize for best direction at the Cannes Film Festival last spring. The Stockholm jury also honoured Ana Alvarez for her lead role in "La Madre Muerta", while Fear Of A Black Hat by Rusty Cundieff shared the prize for Best Debut Film with "Mille Bolle Blue" by Leone Pompucci. The film Child Murders was awarded the Best Photography Prize.

## Pakistan plans all-women police stations

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan is to set up police stations staffed exclusively by women to prevent sexual harassment by male police, a senior official said. Mistreatment of female suspects at police stations has been a focal point of women's rights organisations and an issue frequently highlighted by the national press. Pakistan's police force already has a small number of female officers, but more would have to be trained to meet the new staffing plans. The stations would initially be established in four large cities in Punjab, the country's most populous province, said Faisal Saleh Hayat, a political adviser in the Punjab. Mr. Hayat said Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government would also set up special courts for women. "The present government will do its utmost to uplift women," Mr. Hayat said.

## Briton pays \$7,460 for 1834 bottle of wine

CALAIS, France (AFP) — A British buyer has paid 44,000 French francs (\$7,460 or \$7,460) for a bottle of white wine produced in 1834 — 19 years after the Battle of Waterloo — an auction house here said. The buyer, whose identity was kept secret, was a "distinguished and discreet gentleman, not at all a celebrity," auctioneer Eric Pillon said. The price was paid for a bottle of sweet white Sauternes Chateau Yquem 1834 during an auction in which 29 labels from Chateau Mouton Rothschild from 1945 to 1973 were sold for 15,400 francs. Mr. Pillon, who specialises in selling old bottles of wine to rich collectors, said that the price paid for the labels was a record. The sale of 850 lots raised 1.5 million francs (\$255,000). One of the central features was a magnum of Chateau Mouton Rothschild 1946 which fetched 26,000 francs. The average price paid for bottles of 19th century wine, and dated particularly 1849, 1856 and 1860, was 25,000 francs. A French buyer paid 2,550 francs per bottle for a lot of 30 bottles of 1830 cognac. Mr. Pillon said that most of the buyers, who were regular figures in the auction room, came from Belgium and Britain.

## Space station to get new name

WASHINGTON (AFP) — NASA is close to solving a key problem in its quest to build a space station: Choosing a new name. In the original plan for an orbiting laboratory in 1988, the craft was christened Freedom, but President Bill Clinton has asked for a new name to go along with the new scaled-back operation being mounted with Russian help. NASA is down to a short list of five: Alliance, Alpha, Aurora, Sigma, Unity. The suggestions were put forward by space industry employees throughout the United States and will be scrutinised by NASA officials in Washington before NASA Administrator Dan Goldin and the White House settle on one name. Mr. Clinton could come up with a name of his own. The hundreds of rejects included Adventure, Destiny, Newton and Phoenix. Space-based construction of the station is to begin in 1997.

## Syria restates its stand

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria reaffirmed its rejection of the idea of secret talks with Israel Tuesday and insisted that public negotiations were the only way to peace.

On Sunday Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters he expected Syria to negotiate through what he called "quiet channels."

But the official Syrian newspaper Al Thawra said: "Syria rejects exchanging the public negotiations in Washington for the secret talks which are being sought by Israel."

Israel's deputy foreign minister, in an interview published by a Kuwaiti newspaper Tuesday, accused Syrian President Hafez Al Assad of obstructing the road to peace.

"The problem is that President Assad has not given us his explanation of peace. He only speaks of withdrawal, and he wants from Israel clear definitions for withdrawal," Yossi Beilin told the Kuwaiti Al Siyassah daily.

Syria's negotiations with Israel have been bogged down over Damascus' insistence on unconditional Israeli withdrawal from the strategic Golan Heights the Jewish state occupies, as well as Israeli demands for a clear definition of "total peace."

In a violation of the boycott-of-Israel rules, the pro-government Al Siyassah was the first Gulf paper to send its own reporter to Israel.

Last week, the newspaper and its English-language sister publication Arab Times published an interview with the Israeli president, Ezer Weizman.

Al Thawra said Mr. Rabin was trying to wriggle out of the formula for the Washington talks, which are based on the Middle East peace conference held in Madrid in 1991.

That formula was peace in return for Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territory. The newspaper said that according to Israel's concept of peace Israel would keep all the occupied territory.

"This vision of the Tel Aviv rulers has followed 11 rounds of bilateral talks which were held in Washington so far," it said.

But the newspaper said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who will visit the region early next month to try to reactivate the peace talks, would find a positive Syrian response if he pushed the land-for-peace formula.

But it predicted that Israel would tell Mr. Christopher it was not ready to withdraw, "this would constitute a thorny obstacle hindering the reactivation of the peace talks and the resumption of the negotiations in Washington."

Syria had threatened to boycott the 12th round of talks unless Israel gives firm commitment to withdraw.

Al Thawra again called on other Arab states not to make separate agreements with Israel.

"Israel shows it is not seeking a just and comprehensive peace but is trying to conclude fragile separate deals which would lead to no permanent peace," it added.

## Iraq links monitoring to pledge to end sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Iraq is asking for assurances from the Security Council that the international oil embargo on Baghdad be lifted before it agrees to allow long-term monitoring of its weapons programmes, diplomatic sources said Monday.

The sources spoke as discussions were being held at U.N. headquarters on efforts to establish a monitoring system as outlined in Security Council resolutions at the end of the Gulf war to ensure that Iraq does not develop weapons of mass destruction.

Security Council President Jose Luis Jesus of Cape Verde said Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz was "showing cooperation" in the discussions, but added that Baghdad was seeking "cooperation on both sides."

The talks also included discussions on recent clashes along the Iraq-Kuwait border, and Mr. Jesus said Mr. Aziz denied Iraqi forces provoked the incidents.

Separately, a U.N. report released Monday said Baghdad continues to repress Kurds in northern Iraq and Shiite Muslims in the marshlands of the south with discriminatory economic policies and military actions.

"The government has acted in a discriminatory fashion in its distribution of food and health care ... to the detriment of the human rights of the general populations living in

the northern and southern parts of the country," said a report by the U.N. Human Rights Commission's special rapporteur, Max van der Stoep.

The report noted that communities and fields under cultivation had been subjected to "indiscriminate bombardments" by the Iraqi army.

Mr. Aziz has set up private meetings with 14 of the 15 council members. Diplomats said U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright had not accepted the invitation for talks.

Iraq was put under stringent sanctions after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. The oil embargo is linked to scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, according to a 1991

Gulf war ceasefire resolution.

Imports to Iraq are tied to other council demands, such as human rights obligations and recognising the Kuwaiti border.

Iraq says it has met most of the demands on destroying its nuclear, biological, chemical and ballistic weapons. Mr. Aziz said that without oil its economy has been crippled and its population is suffering.

Mr. Jesus raised the incidents on the Kuwaiti border, including two marches into Kuwait by Iraqis protesting the new U.N. demarcation line which has put some of its farmers on the Kuwaiti side on the frontier.

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## GCC slams Iran on Abu Musa, assails Iraq

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — Interior ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Tuesday renewed their countries' backing of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in its dispute with Iran over three strategic islands.

A communique summing up two days of talks among the ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the UAE also

landed Abu Dhabi's efforts to negotiate a settlement with Iran over the islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tumb and Lesser Tumb.

The dispute dates back to

1971 when Iran seized the three islands. Iran later agreed to share sovereignty over Abu Musa with the UAE but last year proclaimed itself sole owner of the island.

The ministerial meeting was designed to prepare recommendations to be submitted to the annual summit of GCC leaders on Dec. 20 in Saudi Arabia.

In their communique, they urged firm international action to rein in Iraq following shooting incidents along the border with Kuwait.

"The ministers call for a strong international stand

against the Iraqi regime until it implements all U.N. resolutions related to its aggression against Kuwait," said the communique, referring to international decisions that followed the 1991 Gulf war.

They also urged the release of more than 800 detainees Iraq allegedly has been holding since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The communique made no reference to any agreement on a proposal for open borders among the six countries or a plan for a joint police force. UAE Interior Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Badi

told reporters. "It was a successful meeting that reflected our keen interest in supporting... coordination and cooperation among our security organisations."

The statement said the ministers discussed a joint security strategy drawn up by their undersecretaries and agreed to bolster security coordination to guarantee stability in the region.

But it made no mention of plans to allow GCC citizens to enter member states on identity cards, an issue the ministers earlier said would be discussed.

## Syrians see breakthrough during Christopher visit, seek commitment

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Syria effectively ended the last holdout in the two-year-old Middle East peace process, believes that a breakthrough could be achieved in its negotiations with Israel with "new ideas" to be discussed during the visit next month of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

The basic position of the Syrians, according to the sources, is based on their confidence that their demands could be met and would be met, given the recent breakthrough in the Palestinian-Israeli track of negotiations and the agreement on an agenda for a peace accord between Jordan and the Jewish state.

An integral part of the Syrian approach is also a demand for unconditional Arab and international aid, they said.

"Syria does not believe in international donors' conferences, regional cooperation, multilateral investments, joint ventures, etc.," said a Western source. "As far as Damascus is concerned all these could wait and materialise in good time. It believes in aid when it is delivered and will not accept anyone breaching down its neck to see what it is doing with the assistance."

The source was underlining the long-time Syrian reluctance to allow external scrutiny of its economy; an inevitable course of events if it were to follow the method that the international community adopted in raising funds for Palestinian self-rule under the Sept. 13 agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

At the same time, Damascus is also aware of the "delicacy of the situation," said an Arab diplomat. "They know very well that there is an even chance that things could go the other way: The U.S. and Israel as well as others could get exasperated with Syria's political demands and decide that the Syrian-Israeli track could wait."

"Any time Syria finds things tilting towards that direction it will move fast to put things right," said the diplomat. "But then, the question is what are the parameters that guide Syrian thinking, and when will it decide the time is right."

context is an assurance that no Arab party would sign a separate peace treaty with Israel outside the framework of a comprehensive settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

During his visit to Damascus on Sunday, His Majesty King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad reaffirmed that no Arab party would sign a peace agreement with Israel before similar accords are reached between the Jewish state and other parties involved in the peace process, official sources said.

In the meantime, if Jordan enters any accord with Israel to address some of its pressing concerns such as the restoration of its water rights, return of Jordanian land and other measures necessary to maintain the momentum of the peace talks that should not be construed as a "peace treaty," officials said.

The Syrians are counting on continued Arab economic and political boycott of Israel as the best card that could be used to induce the Jewish state to make the necessary "concessions" to Damascus, diplomats said.

At the same time, Damascus also "realise that others would not wait eternally for the Syrians to make up their minds and achieve progress with Israel," and hence the Syrians seem to have "new ideas," the diplomat said.

The "new ideas," according to the sources, envision a public Israeli recognition of

Syrian sovereignty over the Golan Heights and a partial withdrawal from the strategic plateau to be followed by interim arrangements guaranteed by the United States.

"The most important element for Syrians is an Israeli acceptance that Golan belongs to Syria," said one source. "Syria is willing to consider its options from that take-off point."

The arrangements that are acceptable to Syria include the deployment of American troops in a demilitarised zone on the Golan with a clear timetable for the total departure of all Israeli soldiers from the Heights, the sources said.

"At the same time, Syria is willing to listen to other options and ideas that could be tabled during the Christopher visit as long as those ideas and options are limited to the security aspect alone," said the diplomat.

According to the diplomat, the Syrian argument is that the Israel-PLO accord shows little Israeli inclination to actually return territory to the Palestinians and as such the first Israeli move in the Syrian context should be to "establish beyond any reasonable doubt that it accepts Syrian sovereignty over the Golan."

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